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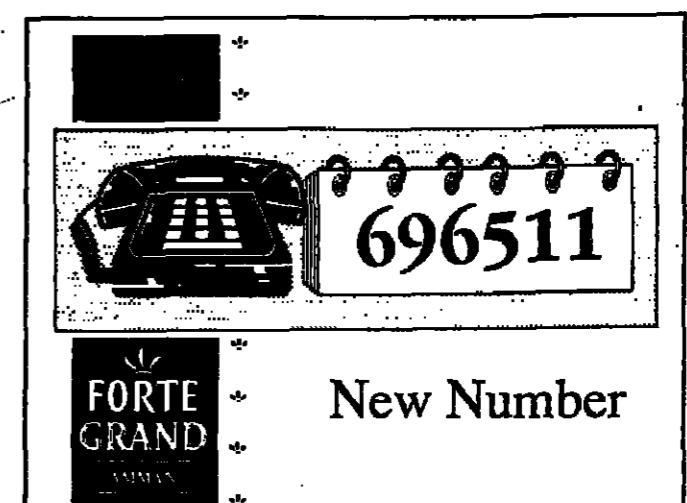


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Beilin in Tunis, to meet Arafat

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin arrived here Monday for multilateral Middle East peace talks and a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Beilin, the first Israeli minister to officially visit Tunis, was expected to meet Mr. Arafat on Tuesday on the sidelines of multilateral peace talks on refugees.

The refugee committee, one of five multilateral working groups, meets from Tuesday to Thursday.

Mr. Beilin said before leaving Israel that he would meet Mr. Arafat and Tunisian officials.

Mr. Beilin told Israel Radio of his meeting with Mr. Arafat: "There are two things I will surely tell him. One thing is terrorism — it is vastly important that the PLO make a serious effort not just to prevent PLO terrorism but to influence other Palestinian factions to stop terrorism."

"We know it is hard, we know he doesn't control all of them, but this is surely an issue we must raise."

Mr. Beilin said the second issue was the importance of sticking to the timetable of the peace deal between Israel and the PLO.

"I think the timetable is really important," he said. "Time is pressing. Time works against everyone who wants peace in the Middle East."

Mr. Beilin said he was going to meet Mr. Arafat at the end of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) meeting on approval of the deal.

Mr. Beilin said Sunday Israel is ready to negotiate with the PLO the reunification of Palestinian families divided by the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel was "ready to negotiate the question of reunification of Palestinian families," he said.

The problem applies mainly to families who have been split by the Israeli occupation: Many families have been torn in half, with one spouse living in the occupied territories and the other living in an Arab country and unable to get a residence permit.

Israel will "make clarifications on this issue which we have never given, and I expect this will contribute in part to reducing tension among Palestinians," said Mr. Beilin.

"It is still too early to talk about numbers," he said. "We will negotiate procedures in Tunis which will allow us to negotiate on the questions of refugees, improvements in their standards of living, and reunifying families."

He rejected once again the right of return of all refugees from the occupied territories.

Mr. Beilin's meeting with Mr. Arafat follows Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's talks with the PLO chairman in Cairo last Wednesday.

He told a news conference that Israeli-PLO autonomy talks beginning in Egypt on Wednesday should be wrapped up within two months.

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the men who signed the historic peace deal in Washington, will lead their delegations in Cairo.

Mr. Abbas (Abu Mazen) was a key player behind the peace agreement which is fiercely opposed by Palestinian hardliners.

He will head the Palestinian team at the first meeting of the PLO-Israel liaison committee overseeing implementation, said Saeed Kamal, the PLO's ambassador in Cairo.

Mr. Kamal met Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Monday and handed over a



A Palestinian salesman waits Monday for the big business boom expected to come in Jericho at the end of this year when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is expected to arrive. While waiting, posters of Mr. Arafat and other Palestinian leaders are to be found at most places (AP Photo)

Clashes in Gaza after Israeli truck kills 3

Combined agency dispatches

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip — Clashes erupted on the Gaza Strip on Monday after an Israeli truck crashed into a bus, killing three Palestinian workers and injuring 45 other people, witnesses and police said.

Troops opened fire and wounded two Palestinian boys aged 13 and 15 in Shati refugee camp on the edge of Gaza City where shops closed down as news of the crash broke.

Youths in the camp began throwing stones at soldiers and setting tyres ablaze as rumours spread that the crash near the Israeli industrial town of Ashkelon, north of Gaza, had been deliberate.

Twelve of the bus passengers were seriously hurt, as was the truck driver, an Israeli Arab, police said. They were all in Israeli hospitals.

Police sealed off the main road outside Ashkelon for three hours following the accident.

The intifada began on Dec. 9, 1987, two days after a road accident left four Palestinians dead.

Israel will face further attacks in a bid to scupper peace, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres warned Monday, but he pointed out that Palestinians were also committed to

(Continued on page 10)

Yeltsin begins visit to Japan on sour note over islands

Combined agency dispatches

TOKYO — Russian president Boris Yeltsin, seeking to leave his domestic woes behind, arrived in Tokyo Monday only to find more problems awaiting him as Japanese anger clouded the start of his first state visit here.

The mood had soured even before Mr. Yeltsin's plane had left the Moscow tarmac, after he made controversial remarks in a departure statement.

The brawny Russian president said he hoped his hosts would not "ruin the trip and once again halt economic cooperation" because of a near 50-year-old territorial dispute.

The remarks clearly angered the Japanese government, which threw its support behind Mr. Yeltsin in the battle against foes in Moscow that ended last week with the loss of more than 100 lives in the storm of parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin's outspoken comments, broadcast on radio and television news bulletins here, drew a swift and uncharacteristically blunt response.

A senior Foreign Ministry official, who asked not to be named, said: "these remarks ignore mutual understandings that territorial issues should be debated. It is impolite."

A Foreign Ministry source said that if Mr. Yeltsin felt

that way over a key dispute, "what is the purpose of his visit here?"

The strong language reflected the depth of popular feeling in Japan over the loss of four islands of the Kuril chain to the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

On arrival, Mr. Yeltsin told journalists he hoped for a "fruitful" visit but avoided commenting on his earlier remarks.

"I hope that this time we will map out a strategy for cooperation between Japan and Russia which unfortunately could have been bitter in the last few years," he said.

He stressed the importance of economic ties and said 17 agreements would be signed during the visit, showing the "large" spectrum of cooperation.

But given his departure statement, Mr. Yeltsin clearly fears that Japan will once more raise the issue of the sovereignty of the islands. Japan has been withholding major aid to the former Soviet Union until the two countries resolve the dispute, which has prevented the signing of a peace treaty.

Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has said he does not wish to press Mr. Yeltsin too hard over the dispute, because of his "domestic

problems. Hardliners at home are strongly opposed to any appeasement of Japan's territorial demands.

The Russian president's comments cast a premature shadow over two rounds of talks he is to have here with Mr. Hosokawa on Tuesday and Wednesday before returning later the same day to Moscow, after a shortened visit of only 36 hours.

As he left Moscow for Tokyo, he said his foes were locked up securely in a "mighty fortress" and he feared no new mutiny in his absence.

"I leave, true enough for a short time, only a day and a half, but I have no hesitations."

"Those who... kicked up the storm are now locked up in a mighty fortress from which no one has escaped," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin, looking calm and relaxed, left a capital still in the grips of a state of emergency. But most of his militant enemies are now in Moscow's Lefortovo prison or effectively barred from media closely monitored by the president.

Mediators from Ethiopia

Pope, Prince Hassan discuss peace process, Jerusalem

Hurd backs call for support of Jordan's economy

ROME (Petra) — Pope John Paul II received at the Vatican Monday His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, water resources and unemployment.

He said that Jordan had set an example of political pluralism and respect for human rights without discrimination.

The Crown Prince raised the issue of a recent Israeli court ruling concerning Al Haram Al Sharif in Jerusalem and briefed the Pope on Jordan's endeavours to safeguard the holy character of the city, noting its particular importance to the whole world and to all faiths.

The Pope reassured the Vatican's stand vis-a-vis the city of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, and voiced the Pope's appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to restore the holy sites and preserve the character of the Holy City.

The Pope and the Crown Prince discussed the role which the Vatican could play towards promoting peace and security in the region.

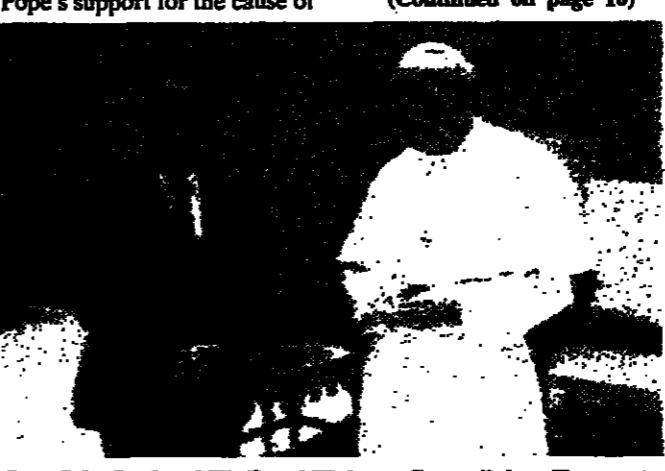
Prince Hassan said a com-

prehensive peace should take into consideration humanitarian issues, the development of resources and the settlement of refugees, water resources and unemployment.

The Prince made a stop in Rome following visits to the United States and Britain.

In London, Prince Hassan met on Monday with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and discussed the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-British relations.

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Pope John Paul and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the Vatican Monday



Sharif Zeid heading back to Royal Court

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Expectations grew this week that Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker would soon return to active politics by taking his old job as chief of the Royal Court.

Although no official confirmation was available until yesterday, sources indicated that Sharif Zeid would be appointed to head the Royal Court "sooner or later" after an absence from active politics of nearly five months, when he resigned as prime minister in May.

Sharif Zeid's return to the Royal Court will be "especially significant" because of what a well-informed source described as "the scattering of political energy" in the country ahead of the national elections on Nov. 8.

Sharif Zeid had occupied the job of chief advisor to His Majesty the King twice before, December 1988, April 89 and December 89 to October 91.

He formed his first government in April 1989 — after Jordan declared its intention to move towards a multi-party system — and oversaw the first fair and free elections in the country since late 1956. He took over the reigns of the executive authority again in October 1991 after a confrontation between the government and the Parliament that resulted from traditionalists and the Muslim Brotherhood joining hands to call for the resignation of then Prime Minister Taher Al Masri.

Sharif Zeid's second government was right-of-centre coalition which largely pacified the opposition on the left and that of the Muslim Brotherhood movement which did not participate in the government but maintained a cordial relationship with the prime minister.

Sharif Zeid resigned his post as premier in May of this year to pave the way for the present government of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali — which amended the electoral law from a bloc voting system to a one-person-one-vote formula and is now preparing for the first multi-party elections in 37 years.

"The respect that Sharif Zeid had gained as head of the coalition government for almost two years would be an asset at this particular time in the country's history," another source said.

"During his tenure as prime minister, Sharif Zeid gained the respect of the left, right and centre to add to his already established ties with the various groups and mainstream Jordanians," the source, who is close to Sharif Zeid, said.

It was not immediately clear to what position the current Royal Court chief, Dr. Khaled Karaki, will be appointed.

Oakley pursues Somalia mission

Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — U.S. special envoy to Somalia Robert Oakley met a representative of the clan of Mogadishu warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed Monday as he pursued efforts to reach a peace settlement with General Aideed's faction.

The defence team is headed by Libyan lawyer Ibrahim Legwell, and includes 12 other lawyers from the United States, Britain, Germany, Switzerland and Malta, as well as a number of legal advisers.

It said it planned to contact

and Eritrea also pursued talks with representatives of the SNA, the United States and the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), informed sources said. But they would give no details.

"We have nothing to say to the press at this time," spokesman for the U.N. embassy have said since Sunday.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali plans to meet next week in Ethiopia with African and Arab leaders on a plan to keep Somalia from slipping back into anarchy after the withdrawal of U.S. troops, announced by Mr. Clinton for next March 31.

"Unless we act now, the gang will just be waiting to start fighting again when we have gone," the U.N. chief executive said of rival Somali clans whose battles caused widespread famine in an interview with the New York Times published Monday.

Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and the secretaries general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) were among those who will attend the meeting scheduled for Oct. 20, the Times reported.

(Continued on page 10)

2 Middle East News

Hariri: Israel-Lebanon peace must include Syria

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri of Lebanon has been quoted as saying Syrian and Lebanese interests were so intertwined that a peace accord with Israel had to involve both countries at once.

Mr. Hariri also told the latest edition of Newsweek International that Israel must be prepared to pull out completely from the Golan Heights in order to keep the shaky peace process on track.

"Lebanon will not sign a peace treaty with Israel if Syria is not involved, and Syria will do the same, because our national interests are very much linked together," Mr. Hariri told the magazine.

Mr. Hariri said President Hafez Al Assad of Syria was now "a peace believer," but he stressed Mr. Assad would accept nothing less than full return of the Golan Heights.

He told Newsweek that so far Palestinians opposed to last month's peace deal with Israel did not enjoy the backing of any regional governments, but he warned that any foot-dragging by Israel could change that.

If Israel is not serious about withdrawing from the Golan Heights, things will start deteriorating," Mr. Hariri said, adding that delays in a settlement with Syria and Lebanon would only crystallise opposition to peace.

"(Assad) wants to put the Syrian flag in all the Golan Heights. All of it and not one kilometre less. I think this is very, very important for him."

At the same time, Washington must step up its own activity on behalf of the peace talks, Mr. Hariri said, including shuttle diplomacy by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"The Americans have to move very quickly to accelerate the peace process," he said.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said Israel could reach outline peace agreements with Lebanon and Syria by the end of the year.

The agreements would be framed in "declarations of principles or intentions," Mr. Bouez told Voice of Lebanon radio in an interview carried by Sunday's newspapers.

Mr. Bouez, who met Mr. Christopher in Washington Friday, said State Department Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross would visit the region soon to prepare the ground for the agreements, which would be announced by the end of the year.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a declaration of principles on limited Palestinian autonomy on Sept. 13 and it goes into effect on Wednesday.

Jordan and Israel also signed a peace agenda last month.

However, talks between

Israel, Lebanon and Syria have been bogged down since the peace process was launched in Madrid in October 1991.

Syria has some 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon, which closely follows the Damascus line.

agreement is reached with other parties."

"It is very hard for me to imagine the Palestinians, the Lebanese and the Jordanians normalising with Israel while the Syrian issue is frozen," he added. "So it is inevitable for Israel to withdraw."

Mr. Bouez said Lebanon would "welcome favourably" an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon before any Israeli pull back from the Golan Heights.

Lebanon wants Israel unconditionally to withdraw from the "security zone" it holds along the southern border.

Mr. Bouez said that the American administration believed that there had to be progress on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts for Israel and the PLO to finalise their agreement.

According to political sources here, Lebanon rejected a U.S. proposal that Israel withdraw from South Lebanon in a timetable depending on a complete halt to guerrilla attacks, which are led by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah.

Beirut has no control over the anti-Israel resistance, which is a trump card held by Syria.

A senior Egyptian official said Sunday he believed Israel and Syria could reach peace agreement by next spring, and that Israel accepted this would involve a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Osama Al Baz, senior political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, told a lunch with Reuter Middle East correspondents that Israel should not delay progress with Syria while it fleshed out the peace deal with the Palestinians.

"We will have to convince Israel of the necessity and advisability and the lack of risk involved here in moving on the Syrian front simultaneously," Dr. Baz said.

"We are optimistic. One would be open not only to dream but to anticipate that an agreement can be reached between the Syrians and the Israelis by next spring," he added.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Earlier on Monday, Hezbollah (Party of God) guerrillas directed machine gun and mortar bombs at two South Lebanon Army (SLA) posts in the Braachit area on the edge of Israel's unilateral "security zone," they said.

"If someone wants to get married he can find five or six girls — but not one house," Jericho land dealer Nasser Salah said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Asked whether he believed Israel accepted that it would have to withdraw totally from the Golan Heights to achieve peace with Syria, Dr. Baz said:

"Yes, because they know this is a condition sine qua non. If they don't do it, that means they are keeping a state of war with a major Arab neighbour and that this can result in the future in spoiling whatever

is over unconditionally."

"For the time being, we are making plans on the basis of estimates and figures published in Israeli or international magazines," he said.

A spokesman for the Israeli military government, Colonel Hanan Robin, confirmed Mr. Abu Libdeh's statement. "Until the agreement with the PLO, we had no one to talk to because the Palestinians refused to envisage the transfer of some responsibilities," he told AFP.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an agreement on Sept. 13 in Washington on autonomy for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. The agreement

goes into effect on Wednesday.

The agreement requires the Israeli military authorities to transfer competence for health, education, taxation, tourism and social services to the autonomous Palestinian administrations as soon as possible.

Col. Robin said these issues along with a timetable for the handover would be discussed at talks scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday in Taba on the Red Sea.

The Israel-PLO committee charged with implementing the autonomy agreement would also discuss details of Israel's military pullout from Gaza and from Jericho where the autonomous regime will be set up first.

"Once a timetable has been worked out, we can get down to serious discussion on handing over responsibilities and we will then provide them with all the information they need," Col. Robin said.

According to Palestinian sources, experts will begin meeting representatives of the military government in the occupied territories this week to discuss the technical details of the handover.

Mr. Abu Libdeh said the main priority for Palestinians was housing. "Our priority is housing, housing, housing and employment," he said. "The situation is dreadful. There are an average of nine people per house in Gaza and 7.5 in the West Bank."

"We will have to build at least 120,000 homes a year in order to accommodate people displaced by the 1967 war and to achieve a maximum of six people per house in 2000," he said.

Mr. Abu Libdeh said that only about half would want to return, but he added: "Their return will have to be phased or it will be a disaster."

Following the Washington agreement, the Palestinians set up the Palestinian Emergency

Development and Reconstruction Authorities (PEDRA), which is responsible for "negotiating, planning, coordinating, implementing and supervising the development of Palestine."

Mr. Abu Libdeh said that the representatives of countries who attended the Washington ceremony had pledged \$2.5 billion over five years to put the Palestinian economy on its feet.

Palestinians lack vital data ahead of autonomy negotiations

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestinians go into talks with the Israeli military authorities on Wednesday, lacking even the most basic data to enable them to plan for running their own affairs.

"We don't even know how many people there are in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, because it is the Israelis who have the register," said Hasan Abu Libdeh, 39, the deputy chairman of the technical committees charged with setting up the autonomous administration.

Mr. Libdeh, a lecturer in mathematics and statistics at Bir Zeit University, added: "The Israelis tell us the handing over of data is negotiable, but we are hoping they will hand

them over unconditionally."

"For the time being, we are making plans on the basis of estimates and figures published in Israeli or international magazines," he said.

A spokesman for the Israeli military government, Colonel Hanan Robin, confirmed Mr. Abu Libdeh's statement. "Until the agreement with the PLO, we had no one to talk to because the Palestinians refused to envisage the transfer of some responsibilities," he told AFP.

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Egyptian militants step up war

CAIRO (Agencies) — Suspected Muslim militants shot and killed a policeman as he left his house in southern Egypt early on Monday, security sources said.

They said the men fired a pistol at Mohammad Othman Hanifi, 45, as he left his house in the village of Arab Fazara in Al Qusaya town, 300 kilometres south of Cairo.

Several bullets hit his head and he died in hospital, the sources added.

The militant Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) is believed to have killed 34 other policemen in southern Egypt since it began its violent campaign in March 1992 to eject the Egyptian government and replace it with a purist Islamic one.

More than 200 people have died and over 500 have been wounded in militant-related violence in the past 19 months.

Al Gamaa Sunday claimed responsibility for an attack the previous day which wounded a senior military prosecutor.

In a statement, it said the attack was in revenge for death penalties given out by military tribunals to Islamic militants.

On the sticking points of full withdrawal in exchange for full peace, I believe it can be worked out. This might need a flexible schedule in terms of implementation," Dr. Baz said.

He said he expected a new round of Middle East peace talks to be convened in Washington in November. The Palestinians and Israelis are due to hold additional talks beginning on Oct. 13 in Cairo and the Red Sea resort of Taba.

Israel allies attacked

Pro-Iranian guerrillas attacked three posts of Israel's militia allies in South Lebanon Monday, security sources said.

Hezbollah guerrillas fired machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortar bombs at two South Lebanon Army (SLA) posts in the Braachit area on the edge of Israel's unilateral "security zone," they said.

Israel said he expected a new round of Middle East peace talks to be convened in Washington in November. The Palestinians and Israelis are due to hold additional talks beginning on Oct. 13 in Cairo and the Red Sea resort of Taba.

Under an interim Israeli-Palestinian Organisation (PLO) deal that takes effect on Wednesday, Palestinian self-rule will be enacted first in Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Israel must begin pulling out troops by December.

Jericho officials view their tourism and farming town of 17,000 as the seat of Palestinian power — at least until a permanent settlement is due to take hold in the occupied lands in five years.

"The rise in prices has been fantastic," businessman Amin Al Rimawi said. "They have gone up at a rate of 500 per cent or more for buildings and businesses in the centre of town."

Dealers say a quarter of an acre in outlying areas has tripled in value to \$21,000.

Still many prospective clients are holding back, waiting for details of the peace deal to be ironed out. Talk of grand projects abounds but little construction is seen.

Two developments could change the face of the town — the arrival of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, other PLO officials and their families and the possible influx of refugees who will need to be resettled.

Mr. Arafat is due to arrive in January, and the PLO is negotiating the three-year rental of the town's only hotel with Raia Abd, its general manager.

The organisation hopes to turn the decaying 63-room Hisham Palace Hotel downtown into a renovated headquarters. A Spanish company has been contracted for the job.

Jericho today is different," said Mr. Abd, who is also a Muslim religious leader. "I see people with hope, stores full of merchandise, real estate sky-rocketing. The buyers have hope."

Mr. Arafat has yet to rent a house for himself and his wife, but landlords are vying for the honour, and five or six villas are rumoured to be under con-

struction.

Mayor Jamil Khalaf dreams of resettling hundreds of thousands of refugees on empty desert land around Jericho. "We have land and we can make flats there," he said. "In the outlying areas we can accommodate 700,000 people."

The peace accord says the return of Palestinians displaced in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war will be negotiated.

Palestinians estimate their number, including offspring, at 800,000 — about 100,000 from the Jericho area.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has dismissed the figure as "nonsense," adding: "If they expect tens of thousands, they live in a dream, an illusion."

It is anyone's guess whether droves of refugees will even want to settle in Jericho — which bills itself as the world's oldest town, which is its lowest and also one of its hottest.

Also unclear is what role the town will play in the final settlement for all of the occupied territories.

"Now everything is changing," the mayor said. "Families will come from outside, but nobody knows how many. Now it is just people's opinions."

Development and Reconstruction Authorities (PEDRA), which is responsible for "negotiating, planning, coordinating, implementing and supervising the development of Palestine."

Mr. Abu Libdeh said the success of the autonomy project depended on rapid provision of international financial aid. "If this is not forthcoming, then we will go under," he said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said at Sunday's cabinet meeting that the representatives of countries who attended the Washington ceremony had pledged \$2.5 billion over five years to compensate for the risks — almost double the current 4,200 (360) high-risk pay. Mr. Peres said the troops had recently received wage rises and extra fringe benefits.

Norwegian publisher of Rushdie book shot

OSLO (AFP) — The Norwegian publisher of British author Salman Rushdie's controversial novel "Satanic Verses" was shot and seriously wounded outside his home in Oslo Monday. Mr. Rushdie was later described as "devastated" by news of the attack. Amanda Hopkinson, a member of the Rushdie support committee in London, said the author "realized that the attack was really meant for him."

The late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a death sentence against Mr. Rushdie in 1989, arguing that his book was blasphemous. William Nygaard, owner and managing director of Aschehoug Forlag publishing house, was hit by three bullets Monday, at least one of which lodged in his back. He later underwent an emergency operation in hospital. A hospital spokesman said Mr. Nygaard's condition was "serious, but ... stable" after two bullets had been removed from him, according to the national news agency NTB.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain firm on dispute with Qatar

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain renewed a call on Qatar to submit a joint application to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for a ruling on a territorial dispute between the two Gulf states. Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa said in remarks published Sunday: "Bahrain's position has not changed. It calls on both states to submit a joint application to the ICJ through a special agreement between them." He told the Saudi-owned daily Al Hayat: "We hope to settle the issue in brotherly ways if possible, or through internationally-recognised way." He added: "Bahrain will not accept the ICJ ruling unless the two countries submit a joint application." Qatar went alone to the court in July 1992, asking it to decide on its claim to a number of barren but potentially oil and gas-rich Gulf islands, sandbanks and reefs. Bahrain controls the territory under a border demarcation decided when Britain handled the foreign affairs of the two states in the 1930s. Bahrain has always maintained that the two sides should go together to the Hague. Qatar wants to limit the case to its claim to the islands and reefs. Bahrain wants to include fishing and pearling areas and part of the Qatar mainland around the northwestern town of Zubara.

Iranian girl says Prophet's daughter visits her

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian girl who claims the Prophet Mohammad's daughter has visited her repeatedly was moved from her home for fear a rush of visitors would spark violence. Tehran's Jomhuri Islami newspaper said Sunday many people had flocked to Jafarabad village in western Iran to see the 16-year-old girl, who says the Prophet's daughter Zahra visited her several times. "Officials acted in time and transferred the girl from the village for further investigations and stopped a rush of people and prevented possible disturbances," the newspaper said. "There seems to be a conspiracy to weaken religious beliefs through such absurd claims," it added. Last July an old woman's claim of having seen the Prophet's grandson in the town of Mobarakeh near Isfahan led to bloody clashes with the police who arrested 500 people. The senior ayatollah rejected the woman's claim as baseless.

ESCWA technical panel meets to draw up new plan of action

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Monday opened a meeting of its technical committee to draw up its 1994-95 plan of action with particular focus on what its chief described as the challenges posed by the historic developments in the Middle East and the United Nations system.

Addressing the gathering of representatives of the 13 members of ESCWA and affiliates, as well as observers, ESCWA Executive Secretary Sabah Bakjaji emphasised the need to follow the new policies drawn up in terms of regional economic and social development against the backdrop of the end to the cold war and set new active profile of the United Nations in world affairs.

Noting that Arab-Israeli peacemaking has notched new turns in the last few weeks angling "well for ending the conflict..." the ESCWA chief said:

"It is our hope that the energies and resources formerly used by the parties to keep the conflict ablaze will now be channeled to consolidate the bases for peace and security and to advance socio-economic development."

While ESCWA is not a member of the U.N. working

group for economic development in the autonomous areas envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement, it has identified areas where it can contribute in this context and forwarded them to the U.N. General Secretariat, Dr. Bakjaji said.

He did not elaborate, but Thuraya Obeid, a senior ESCWA official, explained that ESCWA had identified four specific areas where it could help develop Palestinian social and economic development. These include energy, employment, infrastructure and health — fields where ESCWA could conduct extensive studies and come up with feasible recommendations.

Ms. Obeid, a Saudi national, said it was as yet unclear how ESCWA would actually fit into the ground in developing the autonomous area or where it would get the funds to finance its programs.

"We have forwarded our ideas and proposals to the U.N. secretary-general," and it was up to him to decide how to proceed further, she told the Jordan Times.

A study prepared by ESCWA on the economic and social developments in its member countries devotes a section to the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories. It says:

"Intensified efforts by the Israeli authorities to suppress the intifada have led to fur-

ther deterioration in the economic and social conditions of people in the occupied territories."

In his address, Dr. Bakjaji said most ESCWA countries, including Jordan, had largely recovered from the negative economic consequences of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and had managed to improve their performances.

"However, these countries still carry marks of that crisis... the problem of accommodating returnees, and the aggravation of existing problems such as unemployment, poverty and differences in standards," he told the audience, which included Iraqi and Kuwaiti representatives.

The revamped priorities of ESCWA, he said, include "participation in the establishment of more stable world order, extending help to the poor and to other disadvantaged social groups, protecting the rights of the minorities, assisting countries torn by crises to recover and to regain their sovereignty..."

Mr. Bakjaji, a Syrian national who took over as ESCWA chief last year, reviewed the technical and administrative affairs of the U.N. agency and called for increased participation by its member states as well as financial contributions from some members "which are among the richest in the region."

In loose terms, ESCWA is a technical agency which

offers specialised studies and data as well as recommendations on social and economic development to its member states, upon their request. The agency, which has an independent budget allocated by the U.N. General Secretariat, also provides project support and supervision if asked to do so.

Among the programmes planned by ESCWA in the next phase, the "reconstruction and rehabilitation decade for Western Asian (1994-2003)" include the International Year of the Family (1994), the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) and the World Summit on Social Development (1995).

The agency has also set up a new subsidiary organ, a Statistical Committee, which will meet for the first time in 1995, Dr. Bakjaji noted.

The meeting that opened Monday is the eighth session of the technical committee of ESCWA and member countries are represented at the experts level.

The recommendations of the three-day meeting will be presented to the Ministerial Council of ESCWA early next year for discussions, amendments and additions if needed and approval.

At the outset of Monday's meeting, Syria's deputy minister of planning, Qassem Maqdad, was reelected chairman and Jordan's Abdul Karim Mahasneh was elected vice-chairman.

Princess Basma to head for Japan

AMMAN (I.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and an accompanying delegation will head for Japan today (Tuesday) at the invitation of the Japanese government, the Japanese embassy in Amman announced.

During her stay, Princess Basma will make a call on Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress and Their Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess.

As chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, the Princess will also meet representatives of several Japanese prominent non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with the aim of strengthening friendship and mutual cooperation.

JSCEP to start clean up drive to mark Arab Environment Day

AMMAN (Petra) — In response to a call by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to clean up the earth, the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) Tuesday will start a three-day campaign in 12 cities and towns.

The campaign will be carried out in cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality and with funding from several major private sector firms, said a JSCEP statement.

It said that the drive will be part of the society's contribution to Arab Environment Day, which falls Thursday.

Taking part in the campaign will be students from the private and public schools, members of youth centres, sports institutions, vocational training centres, universities and other organisations, according to the announcement.

The JSCEP activities include the removal of litter and trash from various districts.

The director of the society's information section, Ziad Alawneh, said that the participants in the campaign will distribute trash bags to motorists to discourage them from littering the streets.

The participants, he said, will be wearing special shirts and will be offered free meals and free transportation. The waste and garbage will be sorted so that paper products can be recycled, added Mr. Alawneh.

In Amman, Mr. Alawneh said, the municipality's vehicles and other facilities will be prepared to help participants to ensure the success of this campaign.

The society has printed leaflets and posters calling on the public to help keep their country clean and the environment free of pollution, he said.



Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Monday views regional issues with visiting Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Irmecelik (Petra photo)

Jordan, Turkey play major roles in peace process — visiting deputy

AMMAN (Petra) — Turkish parliament member and former interior minister Ismet Cezgin met here Monday with Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali and said later that he discussed regional and international issues of concern to Turkey and Jordan. Both countries, said Mr. Cezgin, play major roles in the course of establishing peace and stability in the Middle East and therefore corroboration of bilateral issues should contribute towards the cause of peace.

It is important to establish peace and stability in this region so that its countries can direct their efforts towards development, said the Turkish Cezgin.

Stressing that Iraq has already implemented all U.N. Security Council resolutions, the Turkish parliamentarian said he hoped that the United Nations will now terminate the embargo on Iraq so that, he said, Iraq can resume its important role in this region.

Government plans expansion of country's production base

AMMAN (Petra) — The government plans to direct its attention towards expanding its country's production base by boosting its commodities industries and increasing services, said Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Monday.

"We will be concentrating in quality rather than quantity so that we can give impetus to the Jordanian economy and help it achieve excellent production levels," said Dr. Majali at a meeting with the Constitutional Economic Council at the Prime Ministry.

"We are together facing the question of how to improve the quality of life of Jordanian citizens by tackling two problems: unemployment and poverty," said Dr. Majali.

Referring to government plans to deal with these chronic issues, the prime minister said in dealing with these problems, the government would not opt for direct financial assistance or random appointment of people to public positions, but rather create profitable, productive opportunities.

Towards this end, he added, the government must create

the appropriate climate, simplify procedures, support the private sector, and take a supervision and organisational role.

He said the foremost responsibility lies in protecting the country's security and stability

regardless of the challenges.

Referring to the terms of reference of the council, Dr. Majali said "the government seeks to stimulate the work of this council and create for it the appropriate mechanism to ensure its success."

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic, and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Return to Nature" by Iraqi artists Abdul Hussein Abdul Wahed and Zeinab Abdul Wahed at the Fine Arts Section at the University of Yarmouk — Irbid.
- ★ Photo exhibition displaying pictures from Jordan and Syria by German artist J. Swakowski at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Photographic exhibition by artist Ahmad Al Smadi at the Yarmouk University Student Affairs Deanship — Irbid.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mrs. Lucy Marta, Janine Saaf, and Tete Wegeles at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Desert Rituals" by Egyptian artist Mousa Za'at at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Talib at the Balka's Art Gallery in Al Faleha.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Dr. Ala Bashir and Sa'di Abbas at the Alia Art Gallery.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Messer Im Kopf" at the Goethe Institute at 8:00 p.m.

DRAMAS

- ★ Children's drama entitled "Aladdin's Lamp" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

BOOK EXHIBITION

- ★ Comprehensive book and educational aids exhibition at the International Exhibition Hall - University Road.

Tampering with holy sites restoration will result in clashes — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Monday warned that any attempt to tamper with the ongoing restoration work at Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem would result in clashes in the holy city.

The Muslims, who have shouldered their responsibility in Jerusalem and the other holy places for all religions since the days of the Caliph Omar, will never succumb to Israel's moves to consecrate its unlawful occupation of the holy sites, neither will they cede their inalienable rights in the city, said Dr. Majali at a meeting with ambassadors of non-Arab countries in Jordan.

The prime minister was referring to a recent Israeli high court of justice ruling which Jordan considered as an infringement on Arab and Muslim legal and historic rights.

Jordan Saturday officially denounced the court ruling on the status of the holy shrines in a note distributed by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi to the ambassadors of Arab and Islamic countries at a meeting held in his office.

The prime minister told the foreign envoys, who gathered at the Prime Ministry Monday, that this ruling gives the so-called Temple Mount Faithful (an extremist Zionist group) the legal right and custody over Al Aqsa Al Sharif, which Israel calls Temple Mount.

The court ruling, he said, constitutes a flagrant violation and an open aggression on the Arabs' and Muslims' legal, religious, political and historic rights, the note said.

An announcement Sunday said that Dr. Majali would convey to the foreign envoys the official Jordanian stand with regard to the Israeli court ruling passed on Sept. 23 and its impact on the restoration programmes at the holy shrines.



Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Monday meets with envoys of non-Arab embassies in Jordan to convey the Kingdom's stand on an (Petra photo)

King Hussein, will continue as planned and any attempt to halt it would result in further complications and clashes in Jerusalem, warned the prime minister.

He requested the envoys to convey to their respective governments the current situation and urge them to take proper steps to confront the Israeli court ruling and support the Jordanian, pan-Arab and Islamic stand.

The envoys received an official Jordanian memorandum on the issue.

Present at the meeting were Minister of State for Prime Minister Jawad Al Anani, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and the foreign ministry's secretary general.

Provincial, district governors' offices to receive candidate applications Thursday through Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — Provincial governors and their staffs will be on duty in their respective offices Friday, Oct. 15 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to receive applications from candidates running in the coming parliamentary elections, according to a circular from Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali issued Monday.

The circular said applications will be received by governors and district governors from Thursday Oct. 14 through Saturday Oct. 16, in accordance with the Election Law.

In another circular, all government officials and members of the Jordanian Armed Forces were instructed to refrain from taking part in election campaigns.

It also banned any government official involved in the election procedures from taking leave that would delay his/her work in any way.

Karak governor cautions preachers

Meanwhile, the governor of Karak, Khalaf Mahasneh, announced Monday that all places of worship and schools should remain neutral in the election process.

Addressing a meeting in Karak of mosque preachers,

Mr. Mahasneh said the preachers are duty-bound to alert the public on their right to participate in the Nov. 8 parliamentary election. He said schools and mosques serve as a forum for guiding the public to their religious and secular duties, but should maintain neutrality.

Morocco, Jordan initial trade deal exempting certain products from duty

AMMAN (Petra) — A

Moroccan trade delegation Monday concluded a visit to Jordan by initialising a new trade agreement between Jordan and Morocco which updates a deal signed in May 1978.

Under the terms of the new agreement, certain products exchanged by the two countries will be partially or wholly exempt from customs duty in accordance with a list of goods to be endorsed later under separate protocols.

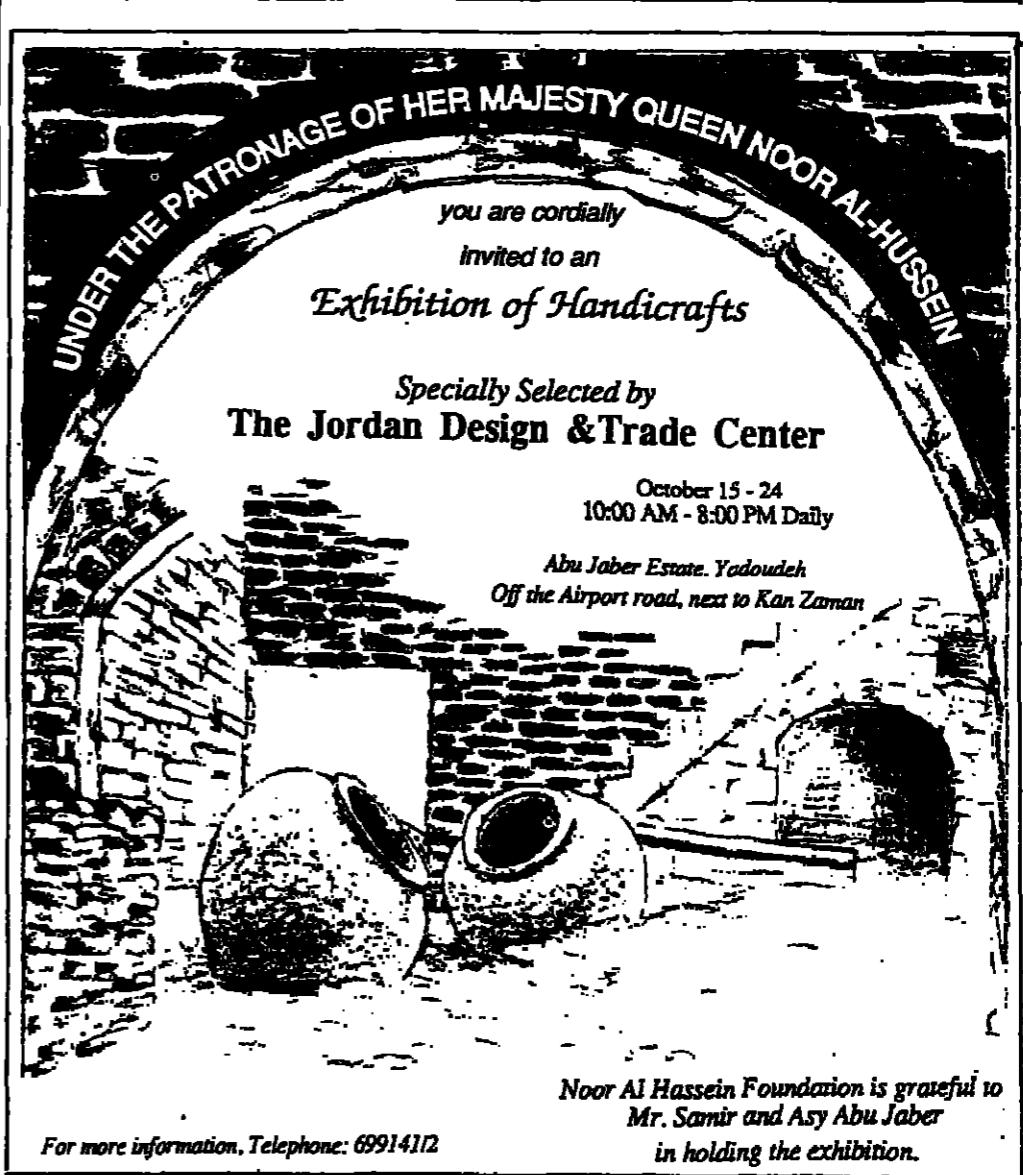
The Ministry of Industry and Trade, where the agreement was concluded, said that the new deal aims at promoting trade and diversifying the types of national products exchanged by the two Arab states on equal basis and for mutual benefit, in an effort to create the opportune climate for economists and businesspersons in both countries to expand trade.

The ministry said that several protocols will emerge from the new agreement, which would go into effect after it has been endorsed by the two governments and the

instruments of ratification are exchanged at a later date.

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Noor Al Hussein Foundation is grateful to Mr. Samir and Asy Abu Jaber in holding the exhibition.

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Small is beautiful

THE MAYOR of Amman, Mamdouh Abbadi, was recently quoted in a newspaper interview as saying that he would like to incorporate Zarqa and Salt in the Greater Amman region. Another weekly quoted "reliable" sources as saying that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali was in favour of such a move. Both Abbadi and Majali and advocates of such incorporation would most probably like to see Zarqa and Salt turned as clean and organised as Amman. Some enthusiasts say that the rich of Amman should share in improving the two towns whose inhabitants service the capital. They say Amman, which collects the highest taxes and rates from big businesses that employ the people of Zarqa and Salt, should contribute to the welfare of the two towns. The proponents of such an idea also say that pooling the resources of the whole region together would help the authorities provide better planning, resource-sharing, capital investment, and management of water and waste.

What the advocates forget or choose to overlook is the fact that such a big body that has under its authority more than half of Jordan's population would stumble in its own sheer size. No matter how efficient the management that will take over this region is, and for the time being it is not, its area of responsibility will be awesome and it will be prone to corruption.

Especially awkward is the fact that the Greater Amman Municipal Council is an appointed rather than an elected one. The idea in itself might not be bad. But the mechanism must be thought over. The present Greater Amman Municipality should be re-divided into its original components. Each town or township should be allowed to elect its own mayoral council. An overall authority that would take care of providing all the services would be formulated of all heads of municipal councils who then would preside over a regional authority that would aim at contracting the private sector to provide the basic services of street maintenance and garbage and waste disposal.

The idea of a Greater Amman region as it is being presented defies the government intent to decentralise as campaigned by the prime minister. What the recent past has shown and proven right is that "small is beautiful" and "might is not right."

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday attacked the Israeli court ruling that paved the way for the extremists among the Zionists of Israel to tamper with the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem as a new form of aggression and part of a long chain of illegal practices against the Arab and Islamic heritage. Indeed, the court ruling is considered as a continuation of Israel's acts of aggression on Arab lands and a desecration of the holy shrines, a process that has been going on since the start of the occupation of the Islamic and Christian holy places, said the paper. Jordan's moves to alert the world community's attention to these atrocities is also designed to expose the real nature of the Zionist leaders who are bent on undermining all efforts towards peace, added the paper. By insisting that Jerusalem will remain for ever the united capital of Israel, following the unlawful annexation of the Arab part in 1967, Israel is telling the world that it adamantly refuses to comply with the requirements of the international legitimacy, charged the paper. There is no doubt, said Al RA'I, that Jordan will pursue all efforts and at all levels to abort Israel's moves and foil its measures taken at the holy shrines and, said the paper, it is the duty of the world community to see to it that Israel is prevented from committing such acts of sacrilege in the Holy Land.

TAHER AL Udwani, a columnist in Al Dustour, discussed water in the Middle East, warning that water resources could be a source of future regional conflicts unless proper measures are taken immediately. Noting that Turkey had offered to supply Syria, Israel and Jordan with water through pipes linking these countries and that Iran had offered to supply water to the states in the Gulf, the writer said that such offers bear the seeds of future danger since they place the Arab Nation at the mercy of foreign nations. Depending on non-Arab sources for water is tantamount to sowing the seeds of discord that could escalate into conflicts later on, added the writer. It is incumbent upon the Arab countries, said the writer, to transcend their present differences and study all their potentials and deal with this important issue before the end of the present century when, experts say, the problem would aggravate to a great extent. Offering ideas for solving the water resources issue, the writer said that desalination of sea water, proper utilisation of the River Nile and sound and economic exploitation of water resources available in the Arab World should be taken into consideration. Cooperation with Turkey is also a must and agreements could be reached with this country towards fair sharing of the river waters, added Udwani. At the moment, he concluded, Arab states ought to give attention to replacing depleted water networks, halting any excessive use or wastage of water resources.

The View from Fourth Circle

Somalia, Clinton, ghosts and new world order signposts

The events in Somalia during the past week are unfortunate, but instructive. The underlying forces at work should be carefully assessed for their implications for future developments in this and other areas of the world, as we make our way through the early years of the "new world order" and come to grips with the role of the United States and the United Nations in local conflicts around the world.

The fundamental dilemma in Somalia is not about intentions — for the initial aim last December of delivering humanitarian aid to starving Somalia was widely applauded around the world. The dilemma is about perceptions — specifically, the perception of the United States of its own political and military role and its perception of the rights and value of Third World cultures such as that of the Somalis.

The unfortunate fact is that the initial positive intention of promoting humanitarian aid, peace-making and national reconstruction in Somalia via the United Nations has been transformed into a struggle over the self-perceptions of the United States and the people of Somalia. The initial focus on global humanitarian activism delivered via the United Nations to help the Somalis has also been turned into a domestic American discussion of the appropriate deployment of U.S. military power to slay the still operative ghost of the U.S. experience in Vietnam. An opportunity to forge a constructive precedent for new world order multilateral humanitarianism has been set back — but not totally denied — by a wasteful political and psychological retreat into old world order American provincialism and militarism.

Behind the death and suffering of Somalis, Americans, Pakistanis and other actors in Somalia, the big loser in this conflict is the role of the United Nations as an agent for peace and human dignity in conflict situations around the Third World. This is not totally new, for we witnessed the start of this unfortunate process in the Gulf crisis, when the United Nations allowed itself to be commanded by the United States as a convenient and willing instrument of three destructive American forces: overpowering militarism, deep ignorance and insensitivity to the human and national rights of people in the south, and a quasi-racist American self-perception of the primacy of American humanity over the humanity of other peoples.

This did not have to happen, for early on in the mission the U.S. participated wisely in the effort to forge a diplomatic and political resolution to the collapse of governance in Somalia, via the round-table talks in Ethiopia. The current dilemma escalated at a point several months ago when the lack of clarity about the precise mission of U.S. and U.N. forces in Somalia was aggravated by the self-generated imperative of the brand of blind and inappropriate militarism represented by the unilateral U.S. deployment in Somalia.

The diplomatic attempt to reconstruct Somalia governance ran into problems when it failed to take into account and to accommodate the traditional social and political forces that have defined the Somali culture for thousands of years. The complexities of Somali national reconciliation and reconstruction proved difficult in part because of the powerful legacy of recent history — a history which saw the United States and the Soviet Union use Somalia, Ethiopia and other countries in the south as convenient pawns in the superpower struggle. The end of the cold war, however, saw convenience turn into expedience and finally saw Somalia transformed from a former strategic asset into a disposable liability.

The post-cold war collapse of the Siad Barre regime, combined with the extravagant and lingering militarisation of the Somali political culture by the two superpowers, generated the reality that has plagued Somalia in the last few years: on the one hand, a deep resentment of the legacy of foreign manipulation of Somalia for narrow, foreign strategic aims rather than for the benefit of Somali humanity, and, on the other hand, a collapsed domestic system of political governance whose void was filled by clan leaders armed to the teeth

with armaments willingly provided in recent decades by foreign powers.

Had the U.S.-led U.N. humanitarian operation stuck firmly to its mandate to assure the delivery of food supplies while leaving the Somalis to decide on political reconstruction on their own, we would not have witnessed the problems of the last two months; and we would seen the United Nations live up to the promise of its founders half a century ago. The Americans, however, succumbed to two of their most fierce and retributive character flaws: the bravado of blind militarism and the intellectual delinquency of their intervention in what they perceived to be exotic and chaotic cultures. When these two attributes led to the loss of American lives and the instigation of anti-U.S. sentiments among a growing number of Somalis, the United States responded with an even more inappropriate policy: a flawed moral penchant for emotional vengeance as the antidote to the misguided and disproportionate use of U.S. forces in the service of imprecise political goals. More Somalis would have to die in order for more Americans to feel good about themselves.

M. KAHIL



What started as a noble humanitarian mission collapsed in the debris of a brand of ignoble militaristic revenge practised by both Americans and Somalis. On both sides, the humanism of otherwise proud and sensitive cultures gave way under the pressures of post-cold war national realignments and finally shattered under the irresistible force of the respective American and Somali nightmares of national humiliation and shame.

In both cases, these nightmares did not spring out of a vacuum. Both were firmly rooted in the global geopolitical excesses of the 1960s and 1970s, in the Horn of Africa and Southeast Asia alike. Americans and Somalis shooting each other in 1993 were not only taking aim to kill an immediate threat; they were also slaying ancient ghosts that lurked in the national psyche, and exercising horrors that still haunted them from decades past. The spectacle has been mutually demeaning: good people on both sides using bad means to avenge primordial national failures; decent human beings turning to their guns today to set right the degradation that their guns inflicted on their personal psyches and their national honour in the past. It was and is a tragic battle that neither side can win if they both insist on resorting to the lowness of militarism instead of finding solace and then success through patient diplomacy based on mutual cultural respect and political realism.

The particularities of the collective madness in Somalia are bad enough in themselves, but they are more troublesome for what they suggest about a repetition of the madness in other places. The failure of the Ethiopia talks and the advent of Somali-American warfare have generated a dilemma that is neither unique nor unexpected in the post-cold war world: what to do about unstable, post-colonial, 20th century

countries that sit uncomfortably within whimsical frontiers forged from the debris of 19th and 20th century European and Russian/Soviet colonialism? Somalia was the most gruesome example of this increasingly visible brand of fratricide, but not the only one. Similar, if less severe examples, have faced the world in places such as Lebanon, Iraq (Kurdistan), Western Sahara, Kuwait, Chad, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Yugoslavia, Georgia, Tajikistan, Sudan, Afghanistan and Angola, to mention only the most obvious.

The expropriation of the U.N.'s moral and diplomatic mandate by the U.S. State and Defence Departments is further aggravated by two related failures: the acquiescence of European and other world powers in American hegemony and the sad inability of the southern states to respond to the crisis in Somalia and other fractured lands. This raises the potentially catastrophic spectre of Somalia not as an isolated historical aberration or an eccentricity of the current global order, but rather as a macabre signpost along the road to a new world order conceived and implemented by an American psyche that is at once perturbed, jumpy and trigger-happy.

Once again, Somalia may not be novel in this respect: it may be only the latest in a series of cases where the United States substitutes military prowess for diplomatic rationality and where the impressive firepower of the United States' long-range smart bombs cannot camouflage the sad triumph of its stupid and short-sighted policy-making. Somalia may be merely a signpost along the road of unchallenged American militarism that has already passed through Lebanon, Panama, Grenada, and Iraq.

That is the bad news. Fortunately, it is possible also to discern signs of good news, in four forms: a) many Americans who recognise their mistakes in Somalia and would like to avoid them in the future, b) Europeans, Japanese, Chinese and other world quasi-powers who recognise and have criticised the dangers of such unipolar American militarism, c) United Nations officials who appreciate and would like to redress the long-term damage being done to their organisation, and d) Third World countries that are both ashamed and frightened by their wretched inability to do anything other than tune in to CNN to watch the blaze of American guns and absorb the fury of American policy statements.

President Clinton is in a difficult position, having inherited the Somalia intervention from a shattered, discredited and humiliated George Bush who tried in vain to salvage his manhood by standing on the turret of his tanks, instead of standing on the shoulders of the common sense and humanism of his people. Mr. Clinton may have recognised the limits of American militarism; he has declared that U.S. troops will leave Somalia in six months and appears to recognise that Somali political reconciliation will have to accommodate all local actors, including General Aideed.

This is a constructive and realistic American attitude; it is a shame that it required the deaths of scores of Americans, Pakistanis, Somalis and others to be activated. We shall soon find out whether the United States government has really laid to rest the ghost of its agony in Vietnam and accepts finally that American militarism cannot provide an answer to the problems of nation-building, governance, stability and human dignity throughout the troubled lands of the south.

Mr. Clinton may be showing important signs of political and historical realism and a fresh American capacity to deal with Third World cultures in a more intelligent and mutually respectful manner. If so, he should be encouraged to continue walking down this road, with the hope that his actions — if they fulfil the promise they now hint at — will also mark a significant turn for the better among the lurid debris and body parts stemming from the militarism, racism, barbarism and provincialism that have heretofore marked the path of the made-in-USA new world order.

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Dichotomy of a process that can be made or broke

By Ziad Asali

ON MONDAYS, the flood gates usually open at my clinic in my small town in Illinois, and patients pour in, having saved their ailments for the weekend. But on Monday, Sept. 13, I was standing in line waiting to get into the South Lawn of the White House. Once in, I started wandering about in the bright sunlight, watching the high and mighty, whose faces are recognised the world over, taking their seats and chatting amiably.

The drama, the historic and real-life drama unfolded on centre stage. All eyes were transfixed upon Yasser Arafat extending his hand to Yitzhak Rabin as the all-encompassing arms of Bill Clinton nudged them both closer. The knowledge that history was being made superseded the surge of emotions palpable in my chest. This I will remember forever. Here we are at last, at the end of a long journey and at the beginning of another. The short, stubble-bearded, unattractive man in military garb, this man with the symbolic headdress, much ridiculed, despised or admired, stood proudly with an extended hand of peace to claim a Palestinian homeland. Mr. Rabin, the embodiment of the ruthless opponent, the general and statesman, having said enough to bloodshed and tears, shook the extended hand in peace.

This is the stuff of poetry and drama that has changed the variables of the historical equation of the Middle East. It is now up to practical men and women with the usual mix of vision and greed, of sacrifice and ruthlessness, and some plain common sense to translate the promise of this moment of peace and prosperity or to disillusionment and chaos.

The die is cast. The old division of Arab and Jew, Palestinian and Israeli, does not hold firmly anymore. The new divide is between those who support this agreement and those who don't. This means that Arabs, Muslims, Jews and Palestinians of whatever nationalities will be in the same camp while others like them will be in the opposing camp. It is clear that reason-

able men and women with the best of intentions may have their reservations about this agreement: the way it was negotiated, the exclusion of other Arab partners, the deferment of the explosive issues of Jerusalem, the refugees and the settlements, the degree of commitment of the Israeli government to the spirit of the agreement, as well as the legitimate concern about accountability and democracy in the budding Palestinian administration. These issues need to be raised now and henceforth, loudly and clearly. We ask the friends of democracy and advocates of human rights to help guarantee these principles in the new Palestine. However, opposition to this agreement means standing in the same trenches with the Shamirs, Sharons, and Netanyahu and with the antiquated religious fanatics on both sides whose absolutist vision cannot be reconciled with reality.

The significance of the opposition to the agreement and its potential for undermining the whole process is not lost on the White House. This was evident when Arab and Jewish American leaders were invited to a briefing at the Executive Building that same Monday afternoon. The group was given an hour or so to visit, get acquainted, and tentatively explore the new relationship.

2. Upgrading the Palestinian-American dialogue and relationship will depend on progress achieved in implementation of this agreement.

3. The U.S. government will make a financial contribution. More importantly, it will convene an international conference to raise funds for this project. Christopher cautioned against the use of exaggerated figures (\$10 billion or so) for fear of disillusionment.

4. Mr. Christopher also avoided prejudging any of the substantive issues deferred in the agreement such as Jerusalem, the status of the refugees and the settlements.

5. He underscored the need for a comprehensive solution on all fronts but avoided setting timetables. He stressed the continued contact of the U.S. with Syria and Lebanon and announced the agreement that was signed between Jordan and Israel the next day.

6. He raised the question of the boycott and stressed the need for Arab governments to put an end to the boycott as soon as possible.

7. He stressed the need for immediate, tangible results to come of the agreement in order to lend momentum to the peace process and warned of the possibility of increased terrorist activity in the short run "as a last hurrah for the terrorists." He also mentioned in this context that the question of lifting the travel ban to Lebanon is constantly under review, warning again of the potential for kidnapping, a fac-

tor which must be considered before the ban is lifted.

Lastly, he expressed appreciation for the spirit of optimism and cooperation shown by several members of the audience of Arab and Jewish Americans convened under the same roof for the first time, under the auspices of the highest level of an American administration.

Vice President Gore took the podium again and, stressing the unique expertise of members of the audience, he solicited advice and recommendations in the form of specific projects and ideas to assist in implementing this agreement.

"The die is cast. The old division of Arab and Jew, Palestinian and Israeli, does not hold firmly anymore. The new divide is between those who support this agreement and those who don't."

President Clinton was announced shortly thereafter and he stressed again his commitment as well as the administration's commitment to the agreement. He urged members of the audience to convey this commitment to people in the Middle East and to assure them that he intended to see it through. Furthermore, he urged members of the audience to extend their support to the leadership that a courageous worked out the agreement under the pressure of obviously high risk.

The president asked everyone to contact their senators and congresspeople to ask that they back it up with financial support, keeping in mind the budget constraints in these times. Lastly, the president reiterated Mr. Gore's request for specific recommendations on projects to be implemented on the ground.

After the official briefing, the president and vice president mingled with the crowd and listened to further suggestions. Eventually, I was able to

express to both of them individually, as well as to Anthony Lake, the national security adviser, the urgent need for an agreement with Syria. All three men expressed their understanding of the crucial nature of such an agreement. The president added that it was a question of timing. When I replied that the agreement had to be reached right away, he suggested that this might present a problem for Mr. Rabin with his constituency, "but we are all working on it."

I would like to add here that I had a chance to talk to Mr. Lake and to Mr. Stephanopoulos, senior adviser to the president, about the need to put an end to the demonisation and dehumanisation of Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims in this country. Both men separately reassured me that this is being done and that more positive things will be coming across the media on this issue.

Since this point is so central to those of us who are interested in a friendly relationship between the Arab Islamic World and the West, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that I had the occasion, as a member of the Arab American Council of Presidents, to raise this issue with Secretary Christopher on Aug. 10 at the State Department. He assured me at that time that he would be speaking out on the necessity to differentiate between Muslims in general and those who commit terrorist acts in the name of Islam, stating categorically that "we have no problem with Islam." It might be of interest to you to note that this meeting took place after the secretary's return from the Middle East. At that time he told us that he supported Mr. Rabin's ideas on early empowerment of the Palestinians and regretted the fact that the Palestinians had not taken Mr. Rabin up on those ideas. Clearly, Secretary Christopher knew more at the time than he was saying.

Mr. Christopher maintains that this agreement was possible in part because of the collapse of the Soviet Union, which sponsored radical Arab causes, and the development of new realties in the regional balance of power, a consequence of Gulf war. To these we may also add the intifada, the ascendance of Mr. Rabin and the Labour Party to power in Israel on the platform of land for peace, the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, the political and economic deterioration of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), as well as the diminishing prospects for future foreign aid to Israel. One might conjecture that the Clinton administration's perceived pro-Zionist policies made the often-stated position of successive American administrations that they would not apply pressure on Israel to come to terms with its neighbours seem particularly plausible. The combination of all these factors convinced the PLO and Israel that peace was possible only if each had an interlocutor in the other.

For the Palestinians, this agreement is the culmination of the realisation of their historical loss. Instead of half a loaf they ended up with two morsels and a promise of the possibility of the half. Those who support it embrace Mr. Peres' vision of parity and prosperity, hoping that good will coupled with hard work will prevail. In doing so, they risk being labelled by their opponents as naive at best and sultans at worst

Jerusalem — rent apart, having a place for everyone

By Pascal B. Karmy

Israeli leaders constantly declare that Jerusalem should remain unified and the eternal capital of Israel. This of course will not be accepted neither by Palestinians nor by Jordanians or other Arabs and Muslims, as none of them will relinquish their historical, political and religious rights in the Holy City. It is therefore inevitable that at least East Jerusalem and its suburbs must be established as the capital of the future Palestine state.

Jewish leaders in general and Israelis in particular are wont to make the world believe that Jerusalem was Jewish all along its history. This is controverted by historical facts as will be shown in this article.

It is not the intention here to delve into a detailed ancient history of Jerusalem, but rather to have a brief survey to show that Jerusalem, especially its eastern part, is Arab and Muslim from a historical and religious point of view and it is presently Palestinian territory under customary and conventional international law, including of course pertinent United Nations resolutions. It cannot, however, be denied that the Jewish people has had deep religious and historical connections with the city. Nor can it be disputed that Christianity has certainly wider and deeper religious association than Judaism with Jerusalem. It is the birthplace of Christianity, which has much more sacred shrines and sanctuaries than Judaism, among which the Holy Sepulchre, the Via Dolorosa, Gethsemane and many other churches which date back to the earliest birth of Christianity, in the first century A.D.

Jerusalem was not built by the Jews but by the Jebusites, a branch of the Canaanite tribes, the original inhabitants of Palestine which was then known even in the Jewish Bible by the name of the "Land of Canaan".

Archbishop Sophronius in Aelia Capitolina near the Holy Sepulchre. Caliph Omar called it in Arabic "Ila" a transiteration of the word Aelia.

Jerusalem, later called by the Arabs and Muslims Bayt Al Maqdis (the abode of sanctity) or more simply Al Quds, is holy for the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Its importance for Islam arises from the fact that it was the first Qibla of Islam — that is the direction towards which Muslims turn to perform the ritual prayer. At the very beginning of Islam, Muslims turned their prayer towards Al Quds until a Koranic revelation (Second Surah, Verse 144) received by Prophet Mohammad, commanded them to face the invariable Place of Worship (that

is Ka'ba of Mecca). Al Quds is also the site of the third holy place for Islam, namely Al Aqsa Mosque after those of Mecca and Madina.

Moreover, Al Quds is the site of the nocturnal journey of Prophet Mohammad to heaven. According to the Koranic revelation, the Prophet was transported by night from Mecca to Haram Al Aqsa by the celestial steed called the Burraq and from there he ascended to the heavens as revealed in Al Isra' Surah XVI, Verse 1 which reads as follows:

"Glorified be He Who carried His servant by night from the invariable Place of Worship to the Far Distant Place of Worship, the neighbourhood whereof We have blessed, that We might show him of Our Tokens! LO! He, only He, is the Hearer, the Seer."

Jerusalem's importance to and association with the Arabs and Islam has survived through the ages notwithstanding the vicissitudes which it has undergone. With the exception of the short Crusade period in 1099 A.D., Palestine, including Jerusalem, remained either under Arab or Muslim control as from the Arab conquest in 638 A.D. until the termination of the Ottoman Rule in 1917 by the victory of the Allies in World War I and the subsequent imposition of the British Mandate over Palestine.

It should be observed that

the conquest of Palestine by the ancient Hebrews and the subsequent establishment of the Jewish Kingdom by King David was episodic, similar to other episodes of ancient conquests achieved by other invaders, such as the Assyrians, the Arameans, the Jebusites and the Philistines (from whom the

name Palestine was derived). Some of them became Christians and others Muslims. In their book "The Palestine State," (1977 edition), the authors Richard Ward, Don Peretz and Evan Wilson state the following: "The indigenous inhabitants of Palestine, whom we began to call the Palestine Arabs in the post-World War I period, are the descendants of all the various peoples who have occupied the country, beginning with the Canaanites and other Old Testament tribes and running through the Greeks, Romans, Muslim Arabs, Crusaders from Western Europe, Turks and certainly Jews." And on page 61, the authors add: "It is also incorrect to regard the Palestine Arabs as having entered Palestine for the first time during the Muslim Arab conquest in the seventh century. The in-

vading Arab forces was relatively small in number but it seems clear that gradually, over the next few centuries, most of the local inhabitants were converted to Islam, mass conversions of populations being not uncommon in these times. The Arabs of Palestine claim, therefore, with some historical justification, that they are the descendants of the original inhabitants of Palestine and of the city of Jerusalem."

Under the United Nations Resolution 181 on the partition of Palestine, Jerusalem was to be constituted a *corpus separatum* which however did not materialise. The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, was occupied by Israel in 1967 and was therefore considered an occupied territory. Several United Nations General Assembly and Security Council re-

"The fact that Jerusalem was for a short span of time, not more than one hundred years, the seat of the Kingdom of David and Solomon does not bestow upon the present Israelis (majority of whom are not the descendants of the ancient Hebrews) the right to claim all Jerusalem after the lapse of more than two thousand years."

claim of the Israelis. Nevertheless, I believe a sort of a *modus vivendi* could be worked out between the Palestinians and Israel whereby West Jerusalem and East Jerusalem could be respectively the capital of Israel and the future Palestine state without necessarily dividing it. However, Jordan's legitimate interest in the Holy City must be taken into consideration and as Crown Prince Hassan stated in his address to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations: "The legitimate rights which the three great monotheistic faiths share in the Holy City must be guaranteed and claims of political and administrative sovereignty accommodated to the satisfaction of all."



Panoramic view of Jerusalem, with the Dome of the Rock in the foreground (file photo)

S. African reserve pioneers unique programme to save black rhinos

By Clyde Russell
Agence France Presse

PILANESBERG, South Africa — the black rhinos of the Pilanesberg game reserve have gone hi-tech, sporting a brace of microchip transponders as part of a pioneering programme to save the highly endangered species.

The park's 38 black rhinos are being darted and implanted with the chips in the most extensive monitoring project yet undertaken to conserve the black rhino, whose numbers in Africa have shrunk from tens of thousands at the turn of the century to less than 2,500.

Danish biologists Hanne Lindemann and Hans Bjorne Hansen proudly claim that Pilanesberg's black rhino are the best managed population in Africa.

The two have been coming to this reserve in South Africa's nominally independent black homelands of Bophuthatswana for two months every year since 1989, to help run the project.

The microchip enables researchers to identify each animal in case it is killed or poached, Ms. Hansen said.

"If a rhino is poached and if (its horn) pitches up in Hong Kong, the transponder can be

read," Ms. Hansen said. "It helps with court cases."

None of Pilanesberg's herd of black rhino — 20 of which now carry transponders — have been killed so far, but other reserves in South Africa are starting to feel the effects of poachers moving south after virtually wiping out the rest of Africa's black rhinos.

Zimbabwe has lost 1,150 black rhinos in the past two years, reducing what was once the largest population in Africa to just 350, significantly less than South Africa's present stock of 800.

The rhinos, which can weigh more than one tonne, are darted from a helicopter before the transponders are implanted.

One of the chips is drilled into the horn and sealed with glue, the other is sewn into the flesh behind the shoulder.

The one-centimetre microchips are only part of Pilanesberg's extensive monitoring project.

The rhinos also have their ears clipped in different patterns to make identification easier and Ms. Hansen and Ms. Lindemann have comprehensive files and photographs of each animal.

The two spend hours tracking and observing the rhinos on

foot in the 300 square kilometre reserve.

It is a dangerous job, considering how aggressive Africa's second largest mammal — after the elephant — can get when it feels threatened.

Ideally, Ms. Hansen said,

the Pilanesberg project should be extended to all game reserves in Namibia and South Africa — but the problem is a lack of funds.

Keiryn Adcock,

Pilanesberg's resident ecologist, said sufficient money could be raised from hunting out old rhinos.

But animal preservationists in the northern hemisphere — whom she described as "bumby-buggers" — have blackballed the idea and lobbied their governments to prevent imports of black rhino trophies.

The more common and less threatened white rhino should be hunted at an average cost of about \$25,000 each.

But most big-game hunters really want a black rhino, and Ms. Adcock said a hunt of could fetch up to \$250,000.

There is little physical difference between white and black rhinos, the only real distinction between the two grey-coloured animals is the lip, which is wider on whites.

"In two to three years, we will be in the same situation as other African countries," Ms. Adcock said, warning that overseas donors had a tendency to act after it was already too late.

Ms. Adcock said Pilanesberg was "gearing itself for the big onslaught" against its rhino population, which in addition to the 38 blacks, includes some 200 whites.

"They could pay for themselves," Ms. Adcock said.

The threat of increased poaching could become reality before all the remaining black rhinos are sufficiently protected, she said.

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Eurotunnel aims to open on March 7

LONDON (R) — The channel tunnel link between Britain and France will open next March but train passengers in London, Paris and Brussels have to wait until June, more than a year later than planned, operator Eurotunnel PLC said Monday.

Europe's biggest infrastructure project will now cost £10 billion (\$15.24 billion) by 1998, almost double the amount budgeted in 1987 when work started after Eurotunnel won a 55-year concession from France and Britain.

That means the company will have to seek another £1 billion (\$1.52 billion) in funds, of which half will be in new shares, before June 1994 when its current resources run out.

Much of the delay is due to a long-running cost dispute with building consortium Trans-

manche Link which groups five British and five French construction firms. But the parties are working toward a settlement which is expected to be reached in 1995.

The freight service will start up on March 7, 1994 through the 31-mile 50-kilometre tunnel between Folkestone and Sangatte.

The shuttle wagons on which passengers will drive their cars at either end of the tunnel for a 35-minute journey will begin around the May 6 formal opening by Queen Elizabeth and President Francois Mitterrand.

From the end of June, Eurostar passenger trains should run between London, Paris and Brussels for the first time ever.

Chairman and chief executive Sir Alastair Morton rejected fears the tunnel would

be a prime target for terrorist attacks, especially now the Irish Republican Army has stepped up its bombing campaign on mainland Britain.

"People must forget the idea that terrorists can somehow blow up the tunnel, it is massively strong. It is built to withstand a major earthquake," he said in an interview.

Eurotunnel will announce the prices for its Le Shuttle tourist service and freight service in January.

Sir Morton said the prices would be higher than ferry tickets to avoid a price war.

"What good would it do to drive them off the market? We would become a regulated monopoly. There are people who will use the ferries. There will be people who use the tunnel," he said.

Italy privatisation claims first cabinet victim

ROME (R) — Italy's tortuous privatisation process claimed its first cabinet victim Sunday when industry minister Paolo Savona resigned after being overruled in a public row over how to sell off state assets.

A ministry statement noted that Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi had sided with Mr. Savona's opponent in the dispute and said the industry minister had quit to ensure the government's unity.

The resignation of Mr. Savona, a respected technocrat, comes at an awkward moment for Mr. Ciampi who is committed to privatising a major Italian bank by the end of the year and who faces difficult

confidence in Mr. Prodi after Mr. Savona had launched a savage public attack on the IRI chairman, blaming him for the delay in privatising its two banks, Banca Commerciale Italiana and Credito Italiano.

Mr. Savona fired the first shot Saturday, issuing a statement that criticised Mr. Prodi for speaking out on how state companies should be privatised and advising him to spend more time on sorting out IRI's grave problems.

A furious Prodi apparently threatened to resign and Mr. Ciampi quickly issued a statement saying his industry minister did not mean to censure Mr. Prodi. The premier fol-

lowed this up with a second statement openly backing the IRI chairman.

The real issue in this war of words is how will Banca Commerciale Italiana be sold off sometime in 1994. Mr. Prodi has already said the other IRI bank, Credito Italiano, would be floated as a public company by the end of this year.

Enrico Cuccia, the all-powerful mentor of the Italian merchant bank Mediobanca, has long had his eye on the prestigious Banca Commerciale and wants some of the greatest names in Italian private industry and finance to get control.

In the dispute, Mr. Savona openly favoured handing such jewels in IRI's crown as its banks to a select group of investors while Mr. Prodi championed the idea of a public company to spread the ownership among as many small shareholders as possible.

Mr. Ciampi Saturday ex-

pressed the government's full

Kim to focus on S. Korea economic slump

SEOUL (AFP) — President Kim Young-Sam, after focusing on his anti-corruption reforms during most of his term, said he would now give top priority to redressing South Korea's economic slump.

At a meeting with his cabinet ministers charged with economic affairs last week, Mr. Kim admitted that he had been too engrossed in pushing for reforms since taking office in January to work on his new economy programmes.

"But from now on I will put all my energy to reviving our national economy," Mr. Kim was quoted by his spokesman as saying after ordering his economic ministers to map out a plan by early November to boost the nation's exports.

Since taking office as the first civilian president in three decades, Mr. Kim has launched a sweeping probe of corrupt officials and ordered a ban on the traditional use of aliases in financial transactions to wipe out tax evasion and bribery.

He was speaking after receiving an official report from the state think-tank Korea Development Institute (KDI), forecasting economic growth at 4.5 per cent this year, far less than the government target of

KDI forecast a current

six per cent.

The central Bank of Korea (BOK) was even more pessimistic, forecasting 4.0 per cent growth for this year.

By all accounts, officials agree this year's growth will be lower than the 4.7 per cent rate registered last year under the outgoing president of president Roh Tae-Woo. That will make it the lowest in 13 years, analysts point out.

The KDI report said the economic slow-down was largely due to the adverse effects of enforcement of the "real name system" banning the use of aliases in all financial transactions and a bad rice harvest caused by this year's unusually cool summer.

However, the KDI report forecast growth at 6.5 to 7.2 per cent next year, since investment in facilities and equipment will increase by up to 4.5 per cent in 1993, in contrast to a 2.4 per cent decline this year.

"Clearly, the economic performance was bad this year, but it will definitely be much better next year," said a senior official at the Economic Planning Board, the government's economic policy-making ministry.

KDI forecast a current

account surplus of \$2.1 to \$2.2 billion in 1994, as against this year's expected deficit of \$100 million. But private economic research institutes argued the favourable balance of payments forecast for next year was too optimistic.

According to Samsung Economic Research Institute Director Lim Dong-Sung, the country was suffering from stagflation since consumer prices are forecast to rise by 5.3 to 5.8 per cent this year despite the economic downturn.

Last year, inflation was pegged at 4.7 per cent.

Korea University Economics Professor Lee Pil-Sang was the culprit for the stagflation, said Mr. Kim's August decree implementing the real name system which obliged the central bank to release vast sums of money to compensate for a cash crunch.

Meanwhile, South Korea's business conglomerates are so heavily indebted that interest payments leave them only with wafer-thin profits, a report by the BOK has showed.

The debt ratio by 73 major subsidiaries of the 30 largest conglomerates is 433 per cent, the Board of Audit and Inspection of the BOK said in the

report submitted to the National Assembly.

This means that the 73 subsidiaries were saddled with debts 4.33 times bigger than their equity capital, it said.

It compared with debt ratio of 147.3 per cent in the United States, 22.0 per cent in Japan and 97.9 per cent in Taiwan.

The debt ratio of South Korea's top automaker, Hyundai Motors, was 463.5 per cent, and that of Samsung Electronics, the country's largest semiconductor and electronics manufacturer, was 439.7 per cent.

Interest payment for the heavy debts left the 30 conglomerates with slim profits. Their returns on a total turnover of \$210 billion was only \$1.05 billion, or 0.5 per cent, last year.

They also borrowed heavily from banks, accounting for 17 per cent of all bank loans. Samsung topped the list, using a total of \$5.4 billion of bank loans, followed by Hyundai with \$3.7 billion.

Hanjin, which owns Korean Air, came third with \$3.2 billion. Lucky Goldstar ranked fourth with \$3.2 billion and Daewoo fifth with \$3.1 billion.

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It is the first stage of plans which could expand the pipeline's storage capacity to over 10 million barrels and build up Sidi Keref as the main storage hub in the Mediterranean.

Mr. Nazih said pumping

boosters installed by next April

will raise pumping capacity

to between 100 million and 120

million tonnes a year depending on how they tested.

THE BETTER HALF

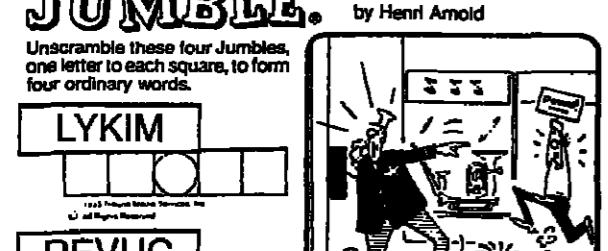
By Harris



"Your morning breath is really bad today, so I put toothpaste on your eggs instead of ketchup."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold



LYKIM

REVUC

SNUFUG

BASURD

Print answer here:

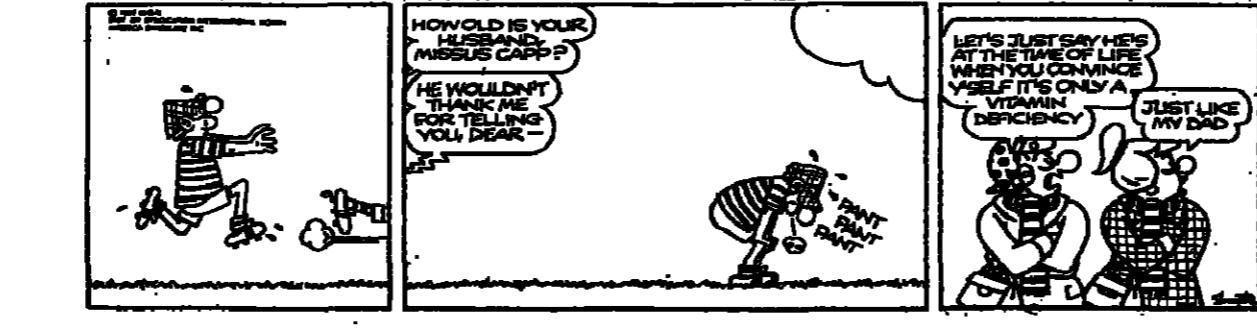
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BEFIT VOCAL MARKUP FROTHY Answer: What they said when they held up the shop — FORK IT OVER

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Print answer here:

Answers tomorrow)

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Iran, Qatar to cooperate in gas

NICOSIA (R) — Oil ministers of Iran and Qatar which share the world's biggest gas discovery, agreed Monday to set up a joint committee for cooperation in gas projects, Tehran radio said.

Iran's Gholamreza Aqazadeh and Qatar's Abdulla Bin Hamad Al Attiyah agreed to set up the panel when they met in Tehran.

"Iran and Qatar want to cooperate in all aspects of gas including technical matters and in setting up oil derivative

plants, such as motor oil, in both countries," the radio said.

The North Field, the world's biggest gas find estimated to hold up to 14 trillion cubic metres (500 trillion cubic feet) is located mostly under Qatari waters in the Gulf.

Iran calls it part of the field South Pars.

Mr. Aqazadeh said last year that South Pars boosted Iran's gas reserves, already the world's second biggest after Russia, to 20 trillion cubic metres from 17 trillion (700 trillion cubic feet) from 600

trillion).

Both Iran and Qatar, fellow members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, are studying multi-billion-dollar projects to develop gas exports mainly to Asia.

Sheikh Attiyah, who is a member of OPEC's three-man compliance committee, praised the group's latest output pact agreed last month as a fitting step to prevent oil prices from falling and urged continued cooperation among members to boost oil prices.

The Qatari minister also called for talks between OPEC members and European countries on proposed oil import taxes in Europe.

Sheikh Attiyah described the taxes as "a measure to solve financial problems of those countries at the expense of an economic catastrophe for oil producing countries," it added.

Annual U.S. farm exports to the six-nation Gulf alliance have almost doubled to around \$1 billion since 1985 and officials expect the figure to increase further after the opening of an agriculture office in the region.

The agricultural trade office was opened in Dubai last month and it covers Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the

United Arab Emirates (UAE). The remaining GCC member, Saudi Arabia, is covered by an office in Riyadh.

"U.S. farm supplies to Gulf states have steadily increased and are expected to continue to grow in future given their competitiveness," a statement by the U.S. embassy said.

"The opening of the office in Dubai will help boost those exports as the emirate is the main commercial centre in the Gulf."

Most of their food imports come from the United States, France, Britain, New Zealand, India, South Korea, China and Australia, which alone supplies the six members with more than 700,000 live sheep every year.

"The Gulf is a good market for several reasons," the UAE daily Al Bayan quoted Edwin Porter, director of the Dubai Agriculture Office as saying.

Japan's slumping economy forces more job cuts

TOKYO (AP) — More than half of Japan's companies are slashing jobs to get through the nation's worst recession in decades, according to a government survey.

The National Asahi newspaper said the survey of 1,000 companies across the country conducted by the labour ministry showed that 60 per cent have begun job cutbacks in the form of dismissals, layoffs, early retirements, reduced hiring, or limiting overtime work hours.

Asahi said two per cent of the companies have slashed jobs through dismissals and early retirements, six per cent through layoffs, and 22 per cent by stopping or reducing new hiring.

Another three per cent of the companies were planning to start dismissals and early retirements, it said.

The economic slump has

been a severe challenge for the policy of lifetime employment followed by most large Japanese companies. No major companies have announced actual layoffs thus far, and the layoffs that have occurred seem limited to smaller firms.

Japanese companies generally regard workers as an important long-term resource and consider layoffs wasteful, particularly in areas where years of training is needed.

But many analysts say a further deterioration in Japan's two-year economic slump, the worst since the "oil shocks" in the 1970s, may force more companies to make layoffs.

Japan's economy contracted at an annual rate of 2.0 per cent in the April-June quarter,

a much worse performance than expected. No immediate relief is in sight, government officials say.

U.S. seeks to boost farm exports to Arab Gulf states

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United States has stepped up a drive to boost farm exports to wealthy Gulf Arab states in a bid to cut a persistent trade deficit caused by its large oil imports from the region.

The world's leading farm exporter is banking on its strong post-war relationship with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and a steady growth in their food imports given their arid desert land.

Annual U.S. farm exports to the six-nation Gulf alliance have almost doubled to around \$1 billion since 1985 and officials expect the figure to increase further after the opening of an agriculture office in the region.

The agricultural trade office was opened in Dubai last month and it covers Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the

United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Most of their food imports

come from the United States,

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India, South Korea, China and

Australia, which alone supplies

the six members with more

than 700,000 live sheep every

year.

GCC states depend heavily

on food imports, with their bill

rising to \$8 billion in 1992 from

\$7 billion in 1990 and \$6.5

billion in 1985, according to

official Gulf figures.

Although they have

achieved self-sufficiency in

some products, they remain

heavily reliant on other sectors.

In 1992, the GCC's im-

ports of cereal stood at 2.8

million tonnes while imports of

rice stood at 770,000 tonnes, dairy

meat at 400,000 tonnes, sugar at

470,000 tonnes.

Official figures show U.S.

farm exports accounted for

more than 10 per cent of the

total exports of \$421 billion in

1991. Japan is the biggest mar-

ket for U.S. food exports, esti-

mated at \$8 billion.

"The Gulf is a good market

for several reasons," the UAE

daily Al Bayan quoted Edwin

Porter, director of the Dubai

Agriculture Office as saying.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3335/45 1.5995/05 1.7970/80 1.4030/40 34.68/75 5.6050/50 1584.05/5.5 105.90/00 7.9480/68 6.9960/60 6.5630/83 One sterling 51.5355/65 One ounce of gold \$360.80/361.20

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Greek Socialists face troubled economy after election victory

ATHENS (R) — Veteran Socialist leader Andreas Papandreou met party officials Monday to discuss who should be in his cabinet and to set the course for Greece's troubled economy after winning Sunday's election.

Mr. Papandreou — brought down in 1989 by poor health, a public extramarital affair and corruption allegations — easily defeated his old-time rival, conservative Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis.

With 95 per cent of the vote counted, his Socialist Pasok Party was leading with 46.8 per cent. Mr. Mitsotakis's conservative New Democracy Party had 39.3 per cent.

Analysts said the Socialist lead would mean about 170 seats in the 300-seat parliament, to about 111 for the conservatives.

"The people have spoken with a big 'yes' to our proposal for a way out of the crisis and the reconstruction of our country," Mr. Papandreou, 74, said in a victory statement that focused on Greece's ailing economy.

Russian parliament elections set for Dec. 12

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Elections for both chambers of the new Russian parliament are to be held on Dec. 12, according to a decree by President Boris Yeltsin published Monday.

Two deputies will be elected from each of Russia's 88 constituent regions to sit in the upper house known as the Federation Council.

The Lower House will be called the state Duma, the name it had under the Czars.

The announcement came a day after a senior electoral official said all regions of the Russian Federation except Chechnya had agreed to hold local legislative elections on Dec. 12, as called for by Mr. Yeltsin.

Nikolai Ryabov, head of the government's Central Electoral Commission, said all regions had sent in the papers needed to hold elections, except for Chechnya, in the Caucasus and which declared itself independent from the federation in 1991.

There were concerns that some regions which backed the dissolved Soviet-era parliament in its recent clash with Mr. Yeltsin would refuse to hold December elections.

In particular the former Bashkir Republic expressed reservations about holding ballots. Chechnya, which has had an ongoing dispute with Moscow, has never been recognised as independent by Moscow.

Mr. Ryabov's comments came one day after Mr. Yeltsin ordered all of the federation's 88 members, except for republics, to set up new constituent assemblies, effectively doing away with the Soviets which have run Russia since 1917.

Mr. Ryabov said the elections would cost about 150-160 billion rubles (\$150 million) to organise.

Meanwhile, a majority of people surveyed in Moscow backed President Yeltsin's use of troops to suppress an opposition revolt, according to an opinion poll in this week's U.S. News and World Report.

But the magazine's poll said more than half doubted the end of the stand-off would accelerate moves towards economic and political reform, and almost two-thirds expect further bloodshed.

The telephone survey of 560 people said 62 per cent backed Mr. Yeltsin's use of the army to storm the Russian parliament, while 90 per cent supported his imposition of emergency rule in the aftermath of the revolt.

A slim majority backed his order closing down opposition political parties and newspapers.

However, 64 per cent said they expected more conflict and bloodshed in Moscow and other regions of Russia.

The poll was conducted Oct. 5-6 by the Moscow-based Institute for Comparative Social Research, in coordination with the magazine's pollsters.

Russian authorities are taking advantage of Moscow's state of emergency to crack down on the city's so-called "black bums" or illegal residents.

Mr. Papandreou held a morning meeting, apparently to decide his cabinet after a long night of noisy celebrations, blasting airhorns, and boozing firecrackers.

The ailing economy and the ministers who would be responsible for turning it around were discussed during the meeting, Greek radio stations reported.

Mr. Papandreou's campaign and victory speech focused on "an economic policy that will secure economic stability and economic development."

Mr. Mitsotakis, 74, conceded defeat and announced he would start procedures for selecting his successor at the conservative party, honouring a campaign pledge.

"We took tough but necessary decisions for Greece's future and we paid the political cost. I'm deeply concerned. The country is about to go through a period of trial," he said.

Mr. Mitsotakis oversaw a severe three-and-a-half-year austerity programme which froze state wages, shed public

sector jobs, raised utility costs and slapped a 50 per cent tax on petrol.

But his tough policies were slow to produce results and a month of campaigning around Greece apparently failed to convince voters recovery was just around the corner.

He painted Mr. Papandreou as a dangerous tax-and-spend Socialist who bankrupted Greece during eight years in power from 1981 to 1989. But the Socialist leader has since softened some of his most radical positions.

European Community (EC) diplomats in Athens have been lukewarm to the idea of the unpredictable Papandreou back in power, especially because one of his first tasks will be to oversee Greece's turn as EC president, which begins in January and runs for six months.

The last time the Harvard-educated economist held office he delighted in siding with radical developing states against his EC and U.S. allies and caused dismay among EC partners with his policies of

heavy borrowing and free spending.

Mr. Papandreou was handed a crushing election defeat in his try for a third term in June 1989, dragged down by allegations of financial embezzlement and an extramarital affair. He also had open heart surgery.

He had his second wife, 38-year-old Dimitra Liani, at his side when he claimed victory Sunday and praised her for standing by him during his dark hours. They married shortly after his election defeat in June 1989.

Mr. Papandreou and his government will be sworn in by President Constantine Karmanlis, perhaps Thursday. He must then call a confidence vote in parliament within a week.

In other election results, the Interior Ministry said the nationalist Political Spring Party, run by Mr. Mitsotakis's former foreign minister, had 4.8 per cent, or about 10 seats. The hardline Greek Communist Party had 4.5 per cent, or about nine seats.

The Nobel Committee of Sweden's Karolinska Institute, which awards the annual prize under the will of the inventor of dynamite and philanthropist Alfred Nobel, gave it to British-born Richard Roberts and American Phillip Sharp.

Dr. Roberts and Dr. Sharp, working at different research laboratories in 1977, independently discovered that a gene could be composed of several separate segments, rather than one continuous one as previously thought.

"The discovery of split genes has been of fundamental im-



Greek Socialist leader Andreas Papandreou flashes victory Sunday. Mr. Papandreou is accompanied by his wife Dimitra (AFP photo)

2 Americans win Nobel Medicine Prize

STOCKHOLM (R) — Two researchers in the United States who independently discovered "split genes", which could help find new ways to treat diseases such as cancer, won the 1993 Nobel Medicine Prize Monday.

The institute said the two men's discovery "has changed our view on how genes in higher organisms develop during evolution. The discovery also led to the prediction of a new genetic process, namely that of splicing."

Professor Gosta Gahrt, a professor of medicine at the Karolinska, told reporters:

"Their discovery means we know more and gives us the possibility of finding more treatments."

The discovery of split genes "does not give us cures, but the possibility to know how we are going to do therapy with genes in the future," Prof. Gahrt added.

Dr. Roberts, 50, was born in Derby, England, graduated from Sheffield University and later worked as a research associate at Harvard University.

In 1972 he started work at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory where he carried out the prize-winning research. Since 1992 he has been research director at New England Biocells, Beverly, Massachusetts.

Dr. Sharp, 49, born in Fairmount, Kentucky, gained a doctorate in chemistry at the University of Illinois, Urbana. He also researched at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory between 1971 and 1974, then moved to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Since 1991 Dr. Sharp has been head of the Department of Biology at the MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Russian sailors turn ship into floating currency

LONDON (R) — Hard-up Russian sailors sold uniforms, cap badges and naval equipment when they visited Britain to rustle up cash to buy radios, stereos, CDs and electric appliances to take home. Monday's Times newspaper reported on its front page that when the Russian training ship "Gangut" docked in Dartmouth, in southwest England, its crew poured ashore to hawk their wares with the enthusiasm of true capitalists. "The Russian lads were amazing. They turned the town into one huge market," one local resident, who had bought a cap from a sailor told the Times. "Literally everything they had (on the ship) which was not nailed down seemed to be on sale." On Sunday the Gangut set sail for home, a little lower in the water with its weight of booty bought from British department stores, which will be sold in turn in the streets and bars of Russia at considerably higher prices. The Times added: "The crew will be praying that the Russian Defence Ministry takes a lenient view of its property being used as hard currency."

Survey: Most Tokyo residents are xenophobic

TOKYO (AFP) — Most Tokyo residents are xenophobic, have a poor impression of foreigners living in the Japanese capital and are concerned about their growing numbers, a survey said. Respondents complained that foreigners did not respect Japanese rules and habits, had bad manners and congregated in large groups, the survey said. The survey, published in the Mainichi newspaper, was carried out by the Tokyo City Government among 3,000 residents of three districts in the capital with high concentrations of foreigners. Without giving the exact percentage of respondents hostile to foreigners, the Mainichi said two-thirds of those questioned had opposed an increase in the 1.3 million-strong foreign population.

They telephoned her rival Mr. Sharif left Sunday and congratulated him as runner-up, a spokesman said.

"I look forward to working in cooperation with you," a spokesman quoted Ms. Bhutto as saying. "We expect to form a government and we hope you will cooperate as leader of the opposition."

Mr. Sharif told Ms. Bhutto he too was trying to form a government.

Ms. Bhutto was sacked from the prime ministership three years ago on allegations of misrule after just 20 months in office, but her charisma and family name gave her a head start over rivals in last Wednesday's national elections.

She said she would be able to prove her parliamentary strength when the new National Assembly votes for a house leader on Oct. 19 despite the regional support she needs to recapture the post of prime minister.

Ms. Bhutto, 40-year-old daughter of Pakistan's first

prime minister and was wooing smaller, independent parties.

Mr. Sharif, who won in a third province in Saturday's closely contested elections, called a meeting of his newly elected members of parliament in Islamabad and was in fighting mood.

"We are as strong as anyone else," he told Reuters, "we are as powerful as any other party."

"Whoever forms government will have to seek the support of smaller parties and groups and we are trying also."

With large opposition parties in the two provinces that Ms. Bhutto won, Mr. Sharif looked certain to prove a tough opponent in Pakistan's highly personalised and Machiavellian politics.

Asked how he would work if in opposition, Mr. Sharif replied: "As the opposition usually behaves — not as in Pakistan but as in Western countries."

As opposition leader, Ms. Bhutto launched a campaign to topple Mr. Sharif and, allied with former enemies, finally forced his resignation in July. Mr. Sharif himself had been chiefly responsible for Ms. Bhutto's fall from office in 1990.

LONDON (R) — A British woman found her hire car

came complete with an unwelcome extra — a deadly boa constrictor. The snake, which crushes its prey to death, slithered along the windscreen of the Ford Escort as she was driving near Catterick in northern England Saturday. Terrified, she scrambled from the car and phoned police, but by the time a patrol arrived, the snake had disappeared into the car's ventilation system. Police and the owner of a local pet shop were unable to retrieve the snake so the car was transported to the hire company's depot in York. Further attempts were planned to catch the reptile, there was no immediate explanation of where it came from. "Understandably the woman wasn't going to get back into the car for anybody," said a police spokesman.

Australians unearth giant reptile skull

PERTH (R) — Australian paleontologists have unearthed a skull of a giant reptile thought to be 110 million years old and so heavy it had to be lifted out by helicopter. Paleontologist John Long of the Western Australian Museum said Monday the complete and undamaged skull — measuring half a metre (20 inches) from the back to the tip of the snout — was believed to be either a dinosaur or a marine reptile. The skull, dating from the early Cretaceous period (140-65 million years ago) of the Mesozoic Era, was found poking out of a 200-kilogramme block of sandstone last week near the isolated coastal town of Kalbarri, 600 kilometres north of Perth.

"This is one of the best skulls of a Mesozoic Era reptile ever found on the Australian continent," Mr. Long, who found the skull, said in an interview.

"It is extremely rare to find skulls from the age of dinosaurs in Australia, particularly one that is complete and undamaged," he said.

Among the missing were about 10 government officials from the Economic Planning Board who were returning from a picnic. Three other board officials survived.

Some 80 cars belonging to missing holidaymakers sat unclaimed in parking bays in Kyeogpo.

Ex-aide tells Thatcher: Shut up and back Major

LONDON (R) — Margaret Thatcher's former press spokesman said Monday the ex-premier should shut up about British politics and support her successor John Major.

Sir Bernard Ingham, Mrs. Thatcher's abrasive press secretary from 1979 until 1990, was interviewed on BBC Radio after a weekend furor over criticism of former colleagues in excerpts from her forthcoming memoirs, published in a Sunday newspaper.

Asked what advice he would give her, he said he would say: "You are going to make a lot of money out of this book. You have got it out of your system. Now get on with running your foundation, touring the world and talking to people, support John Major and shut up."

He re-enforced the message in an article in Monday's Daily Express headlined "take the money and run, Maggie".

Mrs. Thatcher got damning notices from former colleagues she savaged in the extracts from The Downing Street Years, her poison-tipped memoirs of more than a decade as prime minister.

Friends-turned-foes Sunday accused her of writing a kind of "pseudo-history" and of plain "cock and bull" in her recollections of cabinet discussions and her removal in 1990.

Sir Bernard, who won a reputation for fierce loyalty to his boss while she was in office, expressed support for her criticism of former ministers Sir Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson and Michael Heseltine.

"As far as I can see Mrs. Thatcher has told the truth of what happened while I was there with her. It accords with what I set down in my book," he said.

The Thatcher memoirs — to be published in full next week — have hung over Mr. Major as he is trying to unify his Conservative Party with a promise to return to "traditional values" after a year of splits and policy U-turns.

He has since returned from exile and his forces have captured nine towns in his western homeland of Mingrelia, cutting off the capital Tbilisi's access to food and other European relief supplies coming to Black Sea ports.

The fighting between government troops and Mr. Gamsakhurdia's men has worsened the plight of Georgian refugees who fled from the Black Sea port of Sukhumi after it was captured by Abkhaz rebels in a separate rebellion last month.

Government officials say some 10,000 refugees are trapped in the Svaneti Mountains between the Abkhaz-held coast and inland districts held by pro-Gamsakhurdia forces.

He asked parliament to support the move following talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, President Levon Ter-Petrosian of Armenia and President Gaidar Aliyev of Azerbaijan.

"The attack blacked out

popularly elected prime minister and the Muslim world's first elected woman leader, said Sunday she was confident of forming the government in Islamabad and in the two most populous provinces of Punjab and Sindh.

She telephoned her rival Mr. Sharif left Sunday and congratulated him as runner-up, a spokesman said.

"I look forward to working in cooperation with you," a spokesman quoted Ms. Bhutto as saying. "We expect to form a government and we hope you will cooperate as leader of the opposition."

The spokesman said Ms. Bhutto's PPP and its main ally, with 92 seats in the 217-seat National Assembly, had won the support of several independents and smaller parties, raising their total to 106. They need 109 for a majority.

"We are confident we can now win over the FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Area) representatives," he said. The eight lower house members from the semi-autonomous tribal regions bordering Afghanistan traditionally throw in their lot with whichever party forms the government.

Friends-turned-foes Sunday accused her of writing a kind of "pseudo-history" and of plain "cock and bull" in her recollections of cabinet discussions and her removal in 1990.

Fighting has died down considerably in Cuito since UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) declared a unilateral ceasefire last month. The government source quoted by the

state news agency Angop.

No other details were given.

The government says 20,000 people, mostly civilians, have died from wounds, disease and hunger since UNITA began its siege of Cuito nine months ago. The casualty figures cannot be independently confirmed.

Fighting has died down considerably in Cuito since UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) declared a unilateral ceasefire last month. The government source quoted by the

state news agency Angop.

No other details were given.

International humanitarian groups say security has prevented them from flying in urgent supplies and that except for sporadic government air drops Cuito is being starved of food and medicine.

The U.N. special representative in Angola, Alfonso Bondonio B

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seles may play at Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Monica Seles plans to defend her title at the Australian Open in January. Her first Grand Slam event since being stabbed at a tournament in Germany last April. Australian tennis officials said Monday. "All indications are that Monica Seles will defend her title, despite her long break due to the horrific stabbing in Hamburg earlier this year," Tennis Australia President Geoff Pollard told a news conference. "I spoke to her manager during the week who told me that Monica had her sight very definitely on a comeback in time for the open," Pollard said. Last week Seles' agents confirmed the 19-year-old would play in Dublin in December, her first appearance since a spectator stuck a meat-trimming knife into her back at the Hamburg Open. "She has a lot of computer points at stake and doesn't want to miss another Grand Slam," Pollard said. Pollard said the men's and women's events at the open from Jan. 17 to 30 would each include 18 of the world's top 20 ranked players, with total prizemoney of Australian dollars 8.16 million (\$5.35 million).

Senna, Hill to drive for Williams

LONDON (AFP) — Ayrton Senna will team up with Damon Hill for the all-conquering Williams-Renault team in next year's Formula One World Motor Racing Championship. Williams said Monday the triple world champion from Brazil would replace Frenchman Alain Prost who is retiring after winning his fourth world title. Hill, son of the late Graham Hill, has won three Grands Prix for Williams on his first year in the big time. Both men are 33. Senna is leaving McLaren with whom he won his third world title in 1991 because the team were unable to find an engine supplier to rival the Renault partnership with Williams. McLaren's problems started when Honda pulled out of Formula One racing. McLaren, who have signed a deal with Peugeot for next season, have yet to name a replacement for Senna. Prost returned to Grand Prix racing with Williams when Nigel Mansell went to the United States this year and became the first man to win Formula One and Indycar Championships in successive seasons.

Delecour forges ahead in San Remo Rally

SAN REMO, Italy (AFP) — French driver Francois Delecour, trying to close the gap in the World Championship on Juha Kankunen, forged ahead after the first five specials here Monday in the San Remo Rally. The Finnish driver has not been entered by his Toyota team who secured the world constructors title during the Rally of Australia. Delecour led Italy's Piero Liatti (Subaru Legacy) by 59 seconds and Ford Escort teammate Massimo Biasion of Italy by 1min 7sec. The 1.726km rally finishes Wednesday.

Joe Montana, meet Joe Montana

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AFP) — Twenty-two of the 28 inhabitants of Joe, Montana, wound up their weekend visit here by watching the Chiefs-Bengals NFL game. But their town's namesake was not in action. Chiefs quarterback Joe Montana sat out the game with a pulled hamstring, but the Joe, Montana, residents did not seem to mind too much. "It's like we've been in Oz and we've got to go back home tomorrow to Kansas," said Wayne Rieger, town clerk and fire chief in the tiny village of Joe, in southeastern Montana, which changed its name from Ismay last summer. The visitors met Montana and his wife in a meeting closed to the media at the quarterback's insistence. "We spent about a half-hour with Joe Friday," Rieger said. "He came out and told us he was very pleased with what we were doing, except sometimes he just does not know what to say when the press ask him about it because all his teammates tease him," Rieger said. Montana's absence from Sunday's game was a bit disappointing. "But that can't tarnish the great times we've had," he added. Rieger said the town of Joe had asked Joe to come visit any time. "He said he has friends in Montana he hopes to get to see, and he may get over to see us," Rieger said.

Boxer remains in coma

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Clarimundo Silva remained in a coma in critical condition, two days after his national middleweight title bout that was stopped in the eighth round. Silva, 36, slipped into the coma after the referee stopped his fight and awarded the victory to 27-year-old Ezequiel Paixao, who won all seven previous rounds. Silva, a former South American champion, was taken to a hospital in Sao Paulo, where the fight was held, and received emergency surgery.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South that action.
you hold:
♦AQ105 ♦AQ9 ♦AQ5 ♦AQ2
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you bid now?
A—This is a matter of system. If you play that an immediate cue-bid of opener's suit is a game-forcing takeout, this is the hand for such action. If you use the immediate cue-bid for some other purpose, then you must start with a takeout and cue-bid on a subsequent round.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AQ8833 ♦7 ♦AQ7 ♦AQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 0 Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass 7
What action do you take?
A—With two aces, a singleton and three spades, you are in an honor, but your prospects are promising, perhaps even a grand slam. Start off by bidding four diamonds. When you take out-of-game into a minor-suit partial, that's a strong bid, indicating lofty ambitions.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQ84 ♦AQ10 ♦AQ82 ♦AQ12
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A—Clearly, it's a choice between a club raise and one no trump. With your balanced 10 points, if your side has a game, it is most likely to be in no trump, so why not tell partner that immediately? Bid one no trump. You hold a maximum for

Casablanca hero lets Morocco play it again

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — When Abdessaleh Laghrissi stopped to conquer in Casablanca this weekend he became an instant national hero in Morocco, and a villain in the rest of Africa.

A diving header from Laghrissi soon after halftime gave Morocco victory over Zambia, and a third appearance in the World Cup finals.

Every African nation

wanted Zambia, who lost 18 players in an air crash off Gabon last April, to secure the point which would have taken the rebuilt team to the finals for the first time.

But Morocco, who seven years ago became the first African nation to progress beyond the first round at the World Cup finals, refused to be swept aside by a tidal wave of Zambian emotion.

After a disappointing 1990

World Cup campaign, which ended in first round elimination, Morocco plunged to new depths in the 1992 African Nations' Cup finals.

Needing a victory over Zaire to reach the second stage, Morocco snatched an 89th minute lead only to concede a goal straight from the restart. The team returned home in

disgrace. German coach Werner Olk was fired, and ageing heroes like goalkeeper Badou Zaki and striker Aziz Boudebala were consigned to the scrapheap.

A World Cup draw which paired Morocco with traditional rivals Tunisia presented problems, but the Lions of the Atlas squeezed through after their rivals dropped a point in Ethiopia.

Morocco made a poor second round debut against Senegal in Casablanca, Mohammad Chaouch netting the only goal just six minutes before the final whistle.

But after failing in Zambia, Morocco raised their game to triumph convincingly in Senegal, and set up a thrilling finale against Kalusha Bwalya-inspired Zambia.

Nourredine Naybet, one of several French-based professionals in the team, is the defensive kingpin of Morocco, who have impressive midfielders in Mustapha Al Haddaoui and Rachid Daoudi.

Up front, Chaouch is the dangerman, having scored five of the 19 goals in the qualifying campaign while Daoudi and Yunes Fertout struck three each.

Zambia appealed to FIFA, the world soccer's governing body, Monday for their World Cup qualifier against Morocco to be replayed.

The Zambian FA blamed the Gabonese referee for their 1-0 defeat in Sunday's match in Casablanca which eliminated them from the World Cup. A draw would have seen Zambia through to the finals in the United States.

"We hope FIFA will agree to our suggestion that we have a re-match," Adrian Bauleni, The general secretary of the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), told Reuters.

WORLD CUP

Bauleni criticised the Gabonese referee and linesmen for being "poor, biased and intimidatory."

The move is the latest in a war of words between Zambia and Gabon. Zambia lost 18 of their top players and officials in a plane crash just off the Gabonese coast in April.

Since then Zambia has accused Gabon of failing to cooperate in investigating the crash and last month Zambia asked FIFA to appoint a new referee for the match in Morocco.

It is the latest in a series of accusations between the two countries.

The bright side for England, Blackthorn striker Alan Shearer is set to return for his first international since scoring against Turkey in November.

He had scored twice in six

games for England before a

serious knee ligament injury

put him out of the game in

January, but four goals in his

four full games since returning

bodes well.

The Dutch are slightly anxious about the game and Feyenoord trainer Willem Van Hanegem said: "I'm cautious

and also a bit worried because Holland haven't achieved

much in their last few outings.

"If the Dutch side's technique lets them down," then effort and attitude will be decisive. The English are physically stronger and harder on themselves."

Former Dutch goalkeeper Hans Van Breukelen, who won 73 caps and played for Nottingham Forest, says: "The pressure is on the Netherlands. We have to win. If we only draw England will do what they have to do against San Marino and we will be out of the World Cup."

WBC supervisor Ray Clarke

said he decided to release the scoring details "in view of the wide interest the contest and result have aroused." This may have been an understated reference to the vocal dissatisfaction of the Benn camp in particular, whose anger at the "judgement day" draw has been smoldering since Saturday.

Clarke criticised the suggested rule change co-promoter Don King, endorsed by Frank Warren, that judges' cards should be made available for scrutiny after every round.

"This was a very close contest and not easy to score. Many rounds could have gone either way," said Clarke. "I am perfectly satisfied with the scoring of the judges and the performance of the referee."

Clarke dominated the second

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New Jersey Judge Carol Cestellano, who gave him the last

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Islamist elected to Yemen's ruling body

SANA (AFP) — The Yemeni parliament elected a Muslim fundamentalist to the ruling presidential council for the first time on Monday. Sheikh Abdul Majid Zendam, a leader of the fundamentalist Al Islah party which finished second in the last general election, was elected to the five member council headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Al Islah won 61 of the 300 seats in April's elections, behind the 121 of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) but ahead of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), which took 45. Parliament reelected GPC Deputy General Secretary Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, leader Ali Salem Al Bair and his deputy Salem Salih Mohammad to the council. The Socialists governed South Yemen until May 1990 when the country united with North Yemen, which was ruled by the GPC. Under a power-sharing agreement the former presidential council comprised three GPC and two YSP officials. The YSP had insisted that it keep two members in the new council and Al Islah was granted only one seat. Monday's voting was unanimous.

Saudi human rights activists released

NICOSIA (AFP) — Saudi authorities have released a number of detained intellectuals connected to an Islamic human rights organisation, the London-based Liberty group said in a statement received here Monday. The scholars, lawyers and university professors were linked to the Saudi Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), the British human rights organisation said. But it said the CDLR spokesman, Mohammad Al Massari, arrested last May, "is still held in detention due to his refusal to pledge not to associate himself with any political activity. "It seems that this has been the condition required by the authorities in exchange for the release of the rest of the detainees." The Saudi authorities also wanted "to prevent an escalation in tension with academic circles before the new academic year starts," it said. The move aims at the same time at "improving the image of the kingdom abroad following the serious deterioration in the record of human rights in the past few years," it added. Liberty did not say how many people were freed or give their identities. The organisation has reported the arrest of some 50 members and sympathisers of the CDLR during the past few months. CDLR, created on May 3, 1993, was immediately banned by the authorities. Political parties are illegal in Saudi Arabia. The Liberty group statement follows an Amnesty International report published on Sept. 12, that said the persecution of minority religious groups, especially Shiites and Christians, had considerably risen in Saudi Arabia since the 1991 Gulf war with Iraq.

Iranian official due in Baghdad Saturday

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is scheduled to visit Baghdad Saturday for high-level talks with Iraqi officials. Iranian newspapers reported Monday, Mr. Zarif, who will be the first Iranian official to visit Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war, is to discuss bilateral ties and exchange views on regional and international problems. The plan for the deputy-minister's visit was announced last week following a meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Said Al Safah on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. The head of the Iranian parliament's Defence Committee, Ahmad Salek, said Friday that Mr. Velayati was also scheduled to visit Iraq to discuss the ceasefire signed between the two countries after their 1980-1988 war. The foreign minister's visit to Baghdad, however, has not been officially confirmed.

Afghan elections await approval

KABUL (AFP) — The mechanism for Afghanistan's first general election has been formulated by a special commission and now awaits approval by a high council which will include the major factional leaders, an official said Monday. "We announced the completion of our work last night and now the leaders should convene a meeting to approve our formula for the elections," said Maulavi Mohammad Qasem, chairman of the nine-member election commission. As the high council, which should comprise between 30 and 60 members has not yet been inaugurated, it has been agreed that the factional leaders themselves should assume the responsibility for the council's decisions. But, of the nine main faction leaders, only five are currently residing in Afghanistan. "We have sent letters to the leaders' headquarters advising them that the high council should meet to approve the election formula," said Mr. Qasem.

Rebels kill demobilised soldiers in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish rebels ambushed a bus carrying a group of demobilised servicemen in southeast Turkey, killing at least five of them, security officials said Monday. A further 23 demobilised soldiers were wounded when guerrillas of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) raked the bus with automatic weapons fire near the town of Adakil in Bingol province on Sunday, they added. The men were returning home after having completed their military services. Turkish security forces continued operations in southeast Turkey and northern Iraq. Backed by warplanes and helicopter gunships, some 2,000 Turkish army commandos were sweeping a wide area in northern Iraq south of Hakkari province to flush PKK militants from mountain hideouts, the officials said. The PKK use bases in the area to carry out cross border attacks on Turkish military, government and civilian targets. It was the biggest military operation by Turkey in northern Iraq since October last year when it sent in 20,000 soldiers to destroy PKK mountain camps.

Egypt plans office in South Africa

CAIRO (R) — Egypt will open a representative office in South Africa as a first step towards full diplomatic relations, its foreign ministry said Monday. The statement did not say when Egypt, currently chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), would open its office. It said Egypt would start full diplomatic relations with South Africa after an April 1994 general election to move the country towards a non-racial democracy. "Egypt aims through these constructive relations to stress its encouragement to the democratic change. Egypt will continue to monitor the developments in South Africa closely to achieve the objective which the South Africans have fought for — a democratic non-racist state," the statement said. Like many countries, Egypt refused to ties with South Africa because of its policy of apartheid racial segregation.

Khartoum, rebel faction hold peace talks

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A Sudanese government delegation and a team from a breakaway faction of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) recently held talks in Bentiu in South Sudan's Upper Nile state, state-run television reported. The government side was led by the rapporteur of the peace committee in the Transitional National Assembly, Mousa Sidahmed, while the SPLA-United faction delegation was headed by Jastine Atem. The television late Sunday showed pictures of Mr. Sidahmed speaking at a gathering at Bentiu after emerging from the meeting. Mr. Sidahmed described as "successful" his meeting with Mr. Atem which he said had discussed all peace issues that have been on the agenda in the fourth round of peace talks. The two sides agreed on the need for maintaining peace and stability in the Bentiu area and on leaving the door open to dialogue both inside Sudan and abroad. Mr. Sidahmed added that they also agreed that the sole option for resolving the south Sudan question was a peaceful settlement. The SPLA-United has broken away from the mainstream SPLA of Colonel John Garang, which has been fighting since 1983 for an end to domination of mainly Christian and animist south Sudan by the Islamic north. This meeting was not announced in advance nor was it covered by the local media, except for the report carried by the television which did not say exactly when it took place.

China shies away from larger role in Mideast

Combined agency dispatches

PEKING — China wants to play a role in the Middle East, but it will be a "quite limited" one, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was told here Monday in the first visit to Peking by an Israeli premier.

Mr. Rabin told Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng that Israel "would be happy to see China more involved" in the Middle East peace process, an Israeli diplomat said.

Mr. Li replied: "China's role is quite limited but we are willing to play our role."

The two leaders agreed that last month's accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Palestinian self-rule was a "very sound beginning and actually a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin told journalists.

"The question of Palestine constitutes the crux of the Middle East issue. The breakthrough with regard to the question of Palestine will certainly inject vitality into the Middle East peace talks," Mr. Wu quoted Mr. Li as telling Mr. Rabin, who arrived Sunday.

"However, it may be inevitable to run into difficulties or obstacles in the course of implementing the accords," Mr. Li said, urging both sides to



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin walks past a guard dressed in Ming dynasty warrior outfit during a tour at the Badaling Great Wall (AFP photo)

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out the "Islamic fundamentalists' threat to Israel," Mr. Propper said.

The meeting, the first since China established diplomatic ties with Israel in January 1992, followed a red carpet welcoming ceremony featuring a 19-gun military salute and renditions of the two country's national anthems by a 60-piece military band in the drizzle outside the Great Hall of the People.

The two leaders signed an aviation accord, agreed to set up reciprocal consulates and called for broader trade and other exchanges, according to officials from both countries.

"Prime Minister Rabin" did express hopes that China would continue to play its role in the Middle East peace process," Mr. Wu said. "Premier Li Peng said China's role is quite limited but we are ready to play our role."

But Mr. Rabin made it clear that Israel was concerned ab-

out the "Islamic fundamentalists' threat to Israel," Mr. Propper said.

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